Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Watered Down

Paige Martin, far left, and Anna Knecht Schwarzer watch from a bench at the Transit Center as the Whetstone Brook floods downtown Brattleboro, Vt. on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011. The remnants of Hurricane Irene dumped torrential rains on Vermont on Sunday, flooding rivers and closing roads from Massachusetts to the Canadian border, putting parts of two towns underwater and leaving one young woman swept away and feared drowned in the Deerfield River.

AP Photo/The Brattleboro Reformer, Chris Bertelsen)

Abby Goodnough
Danny Hakim
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BRATTLEBORO/VT. – While most eyes warily watched the shoreline during Hurricane Irene's grinding ride up the East Coast, it was inland – sometimes hundreds of miles inland – where the most serious damage actually occurred. And the major culprit was not wind but water. As blue skies and temperate breezes returned Monday, a clearer picture of the storm's devastation emerged, with the gravest consequences stemming from river flooding in Vermont and upstate New York. Here in southern Vermont, normally pretty towns and villages were digging out from thick mud and piles of debris that Sunday's floodwaters left behind. With roughly 250 roads and a number of bridges closed off, many residents remained stranded in their neighborhoods; others could not get to grocery stores, hospitals or work. It was unclear how many people had been displaced, although the Red Cross said more than 300 had stayed in its shelters Sunday, and it expected the number to grow.

In upstate New York, houses were swept from their foundations and one woman drowned Sunday when an overflowing creek submerged the cottage where she was vacationing. Flash floods continued to be a concern into Monday afternoon. In the Catskill Mountains, where Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo led a helicopter tour of suffering towns, cars were submerged, crops ruined and roads washed out. In tiny, hard-hit Prattsville, what looked like a jumble of homes lay across a roadway, as if they had been tossed like Lego pieces.

"We were very lucky in the city, not quite as lucky on Long Island, but we were lucky on Long Island," Cuomo said. "But Catskills, mid-Hudson, this is a different story and we paid a terrible price here, and many of these communities are communities that could least afford to pay this kind of price. So the state has its hands full."

In Vermont, officials recovered the body of a man who was tending the municipal water system in Rutland during the storm. They said his son, who was with him at the time, was also feared dead. A 21-year-old woman died after being swept into the Deerfield River in Wilmington, a small town west of Brattleboro. And a man was found dead in Ludlow. As of Monday afternoon, Irene had caused at least 38 deaths in 11 states, according to the Associated Press.

"This is a really tough battle for us," Gov. Peter Shumlin of Vermont said after surveying the damage across the state in a helicopter.

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Small New England towns bear brunt of Irene

Continued from front

"What you see is farms destroyed, crops destroyed, businesses underwater, houses eroded or swept away and widespread devastation."

New York state and local officials had, by Monday afternoon, carried out 191 rescues across the state since the storm began, in many cases plucking people from cars or homes as water levels rose. State officials confirmed that six people had died in connection with the storm: five drowned and one was electrocuted.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey said his state was facing some of the worst inland flooding it had seen in years. Many small streams are now at flood level and some larger rivers – including the Ramapo, Passaic and Delaware – were peaking Monday or expected to peak over the next 24 hours, reaching record or near-record flood levels. Almost 200 Garden State roads were either partially or fully closed. About 110 people were forced to leave their homes Monday morning in Vineland and 60 people in Millville because of possible breaches of two dams in the area.

Derrick Arbuckle watches from the top of a parking garage as the Whetstone Brook floods downtown Brattleboro, Vt. on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011. The remnants of Hurricane Irene dumped torrential rains on Vermont on Sunday, flooding rivers and closing roads from Massachusetts to the Canadian border, putting parts of two towns underwater and leaving one young woman swept away and feared drowned in the Deerfield River.

(AP Photo/The Brattleboro Reformer, Chris Bertelsen)

In Connecticut, officials were grappling with damage from the storm surge on Long Island Sound, which punished shore communities like East Haven and Milford, as well as rising rivers and streams inland. College Flanagan, a spokesman for the governor's office, said that some waterways, such as the Connecticut River, were not expected to crest until Wednesday.

Hundreds of miles to the south, in North Carolina, where Irene first made landfall, state-operated ferries began Monday to move personnel and supplies to Hatteras Island on the Outer Banks, where an estimated 2,500 residents remained cut off from the mainland by damage to the main highway.

And all up the East Coast, an estimated 5 million people remained without power Monday, including more than 800,000 in New York state, with work crews working frantically to restore service.

Most New York City residents would have power restored fairly quickly, state officials said.

"Upstate is a more difficult situation," said Howard B. Glaser, director of state operations for the Cuomo administration. "It's not safe to go into some of these areas." ❑

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AP source:

Warren Jeffs in medically induced coma

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs was hospitalized Monday in a medically induced coma in critical condition after fasting in the weeks since receiving a life sentence for sexually assaulting underage followers he took as spiritual brides, officials said.

The 55-year-old head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was expected to survive, an official familiar with Jeffs' medical condition told The Associated Press. It was not clear how long Jeffs — who has a history of refusing to eat while incarcerated — would remain in the coma or how long he would be hospitalized, the official said.

The official requested anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

Doctors were not specific about why Jeffs was put into the coma. Jeffs' attorney Emily Detoto said her client "hasn't been feeling well" and was taken to East Texas Medical Center in Tyler on Sunday night.

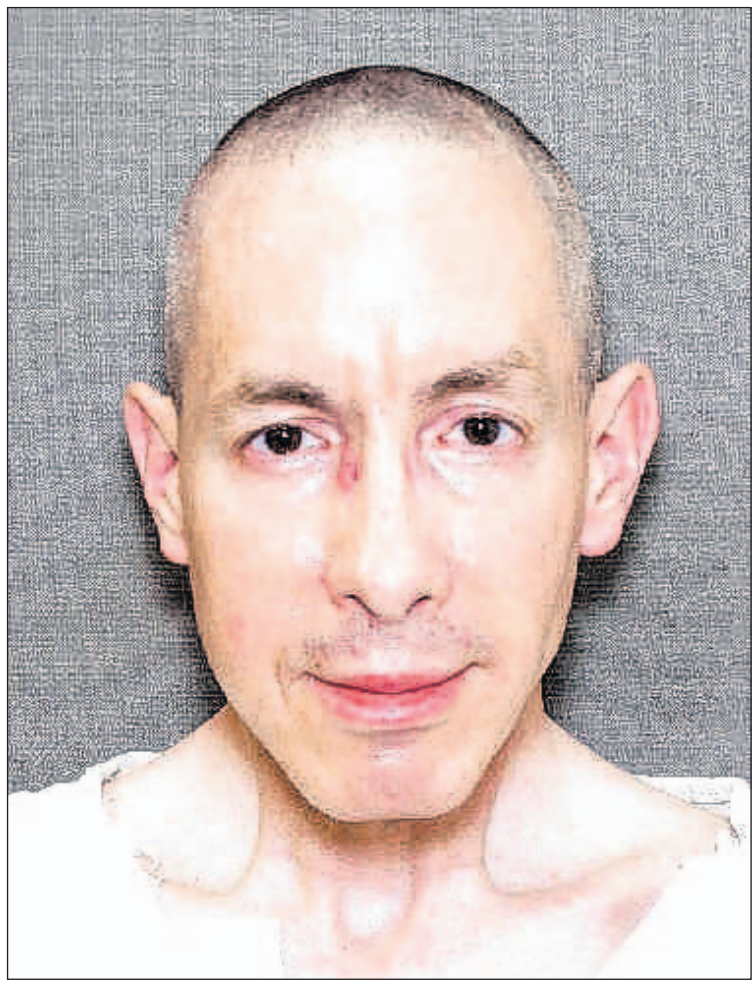
She declined to elaborate. Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokeswoman Michelle Lyons said Jeffs was in critical condition, but Lyons would not give specific details about his status. Lyons said Jeffs told corrections officers he's fasted in the time since his conviction earlier this month, though it was not immediately clear how long he'd gone without food before being hospitalized.

During Jeffs' trial, prosecutors used DNA evidence to show he fathered a child with a 15-year-old and played an audio recording of what they said was him sexually assaulting a 12-year-old. Both were among 24 underage wives whom prosecutors said Jeffs collected. Court documents show Jeffs tried to hang himself in January 2007 while awaiting trial on rape charges in Utah. He also threw himself against the walls of his cell and banged his head, although he later told a mental health expert he really wasn't trying to kill himself.

During a visit with a brother that same month that was videotaped by jail officials, Jeffs said he'd been fasting for three days and remained awake during the night. Days later, he was taken to a hospital and given medication for depression. The court documents said he'd lost 30 pounds (13 kilograms), was dehydrated and suffering from sleep deprivation.

Jeffs also had to be temporarily force-fed in 2009 while in an Arizona jail.

In Texas, Jeffs has been in protective custody, which is among the most restrictive forms of imprisonment in the state. He was to be alone in his cell daily, not be involved in any work programs and to be out of his cell only to shower and for recreation by himself. ❑



This Aug. 9, 2011 file photo provided by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shows polygamist leader Warren Jeffs in Huntsville, Texas. Jeffs has been hospitalized after not eating or drinking enough since his recent conviction on child sexual assault charges, a prison official said Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. The 55-year-old was convicted earlier this month on charges that he sexually assaulted underage followers he took as spiritual brides. (AP Photo/Texas Department of Criminal Justice, File)

In triple killing, man gets antagonizing defense

WILLIAM GLABERSON
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For weeks last fall, until Steven J. Hayes was sentenced to death, Connecticut was riveted by testimony describing the nightmarish fate of the Petit family in Cheshire. The mother was strangled in 2007 after an ordeal that began when two men burst into the home, and her two girls, 11 and 17, died after being tied to their beds and the house was set ablaze.

Hayes' co-defendant, Joshua Komisarjevsky, goes on trial Sept. 19. But as harrowing as the first trial was, it is becoming clear that the second will be even more disturbing.

The reason is a widely known Connecticut defense lawyer and lanky raconteur named Jeremiah Donovan. He has been conducting an aggressive defense in court filings and pretrial hearings that has included attacks on the jury, the judge, the media, the victims' family – even the surviving victim, Dr. William A. Petit Jr., the father.

The defense strategy is markedly different from the gentlemanly tack of Hayes' lawyers. Thomas J. Ullmann, his chief lawyer, said the change was necessary.

"You'd be a fool to adopt the same strategy that we had," Ullmann said, "because it was a failed strategy."

The defense has signaled it will also reveal striking detail about the life of Komisarjevsky – "a damaged human being," the defense says, with a mental disorder who endured "years of trauma and abuse."

Mark Dubois, a veteran Connecticut lawyer and law professor, said the "scorched-earth defense" seemed intended to provoke mistakes by the trial judge or others that would lead to a new trial and a new chance to avoid a death sentence years from now.

The provocations seem aimed largely at the judge, Jon C. Blue of Superior Court in New Haven. Donovan tried but failed to have him removed from the case with claims that Blue lacked objectivity and had an "unsuitable temperament," evidenced by an incident in which the judge gave spectators chocolate-chip cookies he had baked. ❑

Labor board's leader leaves amid criticism of role

STEVEN GREENHOUSE
© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON – Rarely has a federal agency been attacked with as much vitriol as the National Labor Relations Board now faces.

Conservative newsletters describe the presidentially appointed board as "Marxism on the march" and its members as "socialist goons." Business groups denounce it as a handmaiden of union bosses, while Rep. Michele Bachmann, a Republican presidential candidate, says she will shut down the agency if elected.

And Sen.

Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., vowed to cripple the board by blocking confirmation of any future Democratic nominees after the agency's top lawyer sought to block a Boeing plant in his state.

All this has troubled Wilma B. Liebman, who constantly defended the board in her position as its chairwoman – a post she gave up Sunday when her term expired.

In an interview last week, Liebman insisted that the agency was misunderstood.

"The criticism is grossly out of proportion to what has happened and what has been done," said Liebman, who was first appointed to the board by President Bill Clinton in 1997.

"We knew we were going to have a boxing match, but we didn't expect our opponents to come in with a baseball bat."

The board's role is to enforce the National Labor Relations Act, a 76-year-old law that sets the rules for unionization efforts and collective bargaining in the private sector.

But in practice, it has always moved with the political tides.

With its five members appointed by the president, the board has alternately leaned toward helping or hindering unions, depending on which party controlled the majority of seats.

Liebman said that under the Obama administration, the Democratic-controlled board had reversed only a handful of rulings made by the Republican-controlled board appointed by President George W. Bush. ❑

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New Mexico governor rushes to undo predecessor's agenda

MARC LACEY
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SANTA FE, N.M. – When Gov. Susana Martinez of New Mexico handed over the keys of a state-owned jet to a wealthy businessman and his wife for $2.5 million last week, she was eliminating one more remnant of her predecessor, Bill Richardson.

"Last year, when I was running for governor, I not only promised taxpayers that I would not use this state jet as a personal air taxi, I promised New Mexicans across the state that I would get rid of this symbol of greed and excess in state government," she said at a news conference Thursday, with Richard and Linda Felland, the new owners of the plane, a 2005 Cessna Citation Bravo, by her side. In her first eight months in office, Martinez, a Republican, has rarely wasted a chance to differentiate herself from Richardson, the once-popular Democrat who wound up two terms as governor last year with an approval rating in the weeds.

"We have our own agenda," Martinez, 52, said in an interview in Richardson's old office, while acknowledging that "some of it has been to undo his."

She has signed executive orders reversing policies dear to Richardson and pushed the Legislature, with mixed success, to eliminate others. Along the way, she has sought to put her own conservative imprint on a state that has long been a Democratic sure thing.

On the environment, she pulled New Mexico out of a federal program to reintroduce Mexican gray wolves into the Southwest and suspended global warming regulations. "You couldn't have a stronger contrast between Richardson and Martinez," said John Horning, executive director of WildEarth Guardians, a conservation group in Santa Fe that often butts heads with the Martinez administration. Martinez would not disagree with that.

Martinez has quickly learned the limits of her power. The state Supreme Court overturned the climate change order she issued days into her term and the Democratic-controlled Legislature has refused to go along with her in other instances.

Nonetheless, Martinez has made her presence known through dramatic gestures like sending aides with video cameras into the Legislature to post on the Web what she sees as the lawmakers' penchant for private deal-making.

Gov. Susana Martinez of New Mexico, during an interview in her office, in Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 22, 2011. Martinez handed over the keys of a state-owned jet to a wealthy businessman and his wife for $2.5 million last week, eliminating one more remnant of her predecessor, Bill Richardson.

(Mark Holm/The New York Times)

While critics call her pro-business to the extreme, Martinez has fashioned herself in some respects as a populist, a strategy that seems to be resonating with voters, political analysts say. With the state's finances in crisis, she urged the public to email her suggestions on trimming costs, and adopted some of them. When record cold temperatures caused gas shortages last winter, the governor lashed out publicly against New Mexico Gas Co., which she felt did not respond quickly enough.

Attracting more jobs to the state is high on her agenda, but Martinez was proud to let go the two personal chefs who had been working at the Governor's Mansion while Richardson lived there. Asked who prepares meals these days, she put up her hand. (In her State of the State address in January, she received laughs by saying of her husband, Chuck Franco, a longtime law enforcement officer, "The first gentleman will just have to help out with the cooking.")

"She has been effective at convincing the public that she is on their side," said Heath Haussamen, editor and publisher of nmpolitics.net, a political website.

Haussamen, who covered Martinez when she was a district attorney, said she has described herself as a "control freak" who enjoys hurling herself into the minutiae of politics. In that respect, she is different from Richardson, who was more prone to setting the grand vision of his administration.

Despite the contrasts between Richardson and Martinez, some point to similarities between the two, like their aversion to compromise. "She digs in her heels," said Joe Monahan, a political analyst and blogger. In the case of Richardson, who has been on the lecture circuit since leaving office, it was his cowboy boots that were often firmly planted.

Both leaders are strong backers of New Mexico's concealed weapons law. Richardson was a gun owner and Martinez boasted on Twitter on Monday that she requalified for her concealed weapon permit and was a better shot than her husband. ❑

Logistics snarl airlines' efforts to rebook passengers

JOE SHARKEY
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Reporting was contributed by Christine Hauser, Ann Farmer, Ian Lovett, Dan Frosch and Robbie Brown

Hurricane Irene had long since passed, but a lot of people who were hoping to get on airplanes as airports in the Northeast reopened Monday were not going anywhere anytime soon.

The airlines canceled more than 10,000 flights over the weekend at the height of the storm and canceled at least 2,000 more on Monday as they struggled to return to normal. Their immediate concern was getting their aircraft and flight crews back into position. But the larger issue was the unforgiving arithmetic of modern air travel – most airplanes are flying nearly full, with little room to accommodate hundreds of thousands of turned away passengers, especially at a peak travel period like the week leading into Labor Day weekend.

The result was scenes like the one on Monday at Terminal 4 at Kennedy International Airport in New York, where suitcases were piled like barricades against walls, lines stretched out the doors and every available seat was claimed.

In the midst of it all were two young Ukrainian women, Olya Ponomarova, 21, and Julia Baran, 23, who had spent the summer working in the laundry room of a New York camp and were originally scheduled to fly home Saturday and still do not know when they will get out. "We didn't have any money on us, and now we're stuck for three days already," Ponomarova said. "We took showers in the bathroom sink."

The disruptions rippled out from the Northeast. In Los Angeles, Jonathan Strauss, 46, a lawyer, said he had finished up a vacation with his wife and two children, and tried to head back to New York on Saturday night but their flight was canceled.

He tried again Sunday, and was back again Monday. He is now hoping to get home by Thursday.

"They wouldn't pick up the phones," Strauss said. "So yesterday afternoon I came to the airport for the first time, and there was a four-hour wait just to speak to anyone.

So I said, you know what, let me go back and enjoy the great California weather. I went back, enjoyed myself, had a few margaritas, and came back again now to try to rebook."

Late last week, while passengers all over the country with tickets in hand for weekend trips watched ominous reports of the approaching hurricane, most airlines had not yet decided whether to impose preemptive flight cancellations. With the exception of JetBlue, which announced 900 flight cancellations early Friday, major airlines held off scrubbing large numbers of flights until the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey ordered the New York area airports closed starting Saturday.

"I think airlines played chicken with this hurricane," said Joe Brancatelli, who publishes a subscription website for business travelers, Joesentme.com.

Many passengers are trying to rebook flights after Hurricane Irene into a system already packed with pre-Labor Day travelers.

(Chris Gash/The New York Times)

On the other hand, airline operations managers were in a difficult position. Airlines worry far more about wind or ice than rain, even torrential rain.

So when they saw that the hurricane winds had diminished Friday, they had reason to wait.

"I think a lot of the airlines waited for the Port Authority to force their hand before making major cancellations," said Robert W. Mann Jr., an airline industry analyst and a former executive with major airlines.

"I think they consciously flew longer than they otherwise would have because they realized they will never be able to re-accommodate some of these customers in any kind of a relevant time frame," he said.

Many of those customers had booked nonrefundable tickets for trips revolving around the holiday weekend.

So their plans were upended even if they rebooked without having to pay a change fee, which the airlines are waiving, though with restrictions, for those whose travels were disrupted by the storm. The question for them is when they will be able to be accommodated.

Meanwhile, flying airplanes back to the right airports, and flying them out again on schedule, was only one of the major challenges. Getting vast complexes like airports back into operation after major disruptions was another one.

Like airlines, airports require thousands of workers to operate.

In New York, where many airport workers depend on public transportation, resuming service was complicated by the fact that mass transit in New York was only slowly getting back on line Monday.

"The primary concern is making sure that you have the number of people necessary to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the airport," said Debby McElroy, executive vice president of Airports Council International North America, the airport industry trade group.

``No. 2 is working with the airlines to get a sense of what they predict will be necessary to accommodate passengers whose trips have been disrupted.

"It comes down to basic logistics," she said. ❑

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A betting town puts its money on Hispanics

Jennifer Medina
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PRIMM, Nev. – For decades, a patch of casinos on the western edge of Nevada has relied on geography to lure California gamblers reluctant to drive the extra 45 miles for the glamour and glitz of Las Vegas.

But as the economy took a dive, this desert spot suffered the same economic woes as its larger, flashier neighbor. And the troubles were exacerbated by the proliferation of Indian casinos in California, which offered much of the same attractions as any town in Nevada. The company that ran the trio of casinos here declared bankruptcy in 2009.

But now, Primm Valley Casino Resorts is betting that aggressively courting Latinos in Southern California will help lead to success.

They have blackjack games with bilingual dealers and rules printed in Spanish on the tables, the first casinos in the state to do so.

Last year, they began a series of concerts featuring popular Spanish-speaking musicians, which fill the arena to capacity nearly every time. On those weekends, the casino floor of Buffalo Bill's buzzes with an energy that executives say rivals New Year's Eve.

"People have always said things like 'That demographic doesn't gamble,"' said Jay Thiel, the vice president of casino operations, who has worked in the industry for more than 30 years. "But we looked around one day and realized that that's who was here. We had no idea how wrong that idea was."

A Latin music lounge act performs at Buffalo Bill's Resort and Casino in Primm, Nev., Aug. 27, 2011. After the company that ran the trio of casinos in Primm declared bankruptcy in 2009, Primm Valley Casino Resorts is betting that aggressively courting Latinos in Southern California will help lead to success.
(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

When Espinoza Paz, a Mexican pop singer and composer, played to a nearly sellout crowd last weekend, every one of the resorts 2,600 rooms was booked.

"People in Vegas would kill for those numbers," said Stuart Richey, the assistant general manager and vice president of marketing. Richey said that while the casinos have marketed to other niche demographics, like country music fans or retirees, "No other group has inspired this much change in the way we do business. The impact is really just staggering."

Mary Cuadrado, an associate professor of criminal justice at the University of Texas, El Paso, who has studied Latinos seeking treatment for gambling addiction, said this kind of marketing was obviously effective.

"They will get people who have not yet been exposed to that kind of environment," she said.

"The issue is not that people are going to become suddenly addicted, but there is evidence that Latinos are less likely to look for treatment if they do have a problem."

Indeed, the ways that the hotel has shifted to cater to the Latino market can be spotted everywhere – there are countless signs in Spanish: "Juegue blackjack en su idioma," one sign announces – "Play blackjack in your language." Another wishes diners "buen provecho." Managers are trying to find more dealers who speak Spanish, so that they can teach those more comfortable with slots how to put down at least $5 a hand at a card table.

The casino bar band has conga drums and roaming cocktail waitresses offering shots of top-shelf tequilas.

"It feels comfortable here, like we're welcome and we belong," said Pascual Campos, 45, who came from Palmdale, Calif., with his mother, his cousin, his wife and their two children. "I don't pay for rooms, I don't pay for meals, I don't pay for concerts. I just pay to play 21. They treat me like a king for that. Of course I want to come back."

Many of the guests coming in for the weekend were something of regulars. Like their counterparts in Las Vegas, the hotel tries to cultivate a kind of loyalty among gamblers by offering free meals, hotel rooms and other perks to those who spend the most money. Here, someone who spends $1,000 in a weekend is seen as a high roller. In Las Vegas, that kind of spending would not even catch a pit boss' eye.

Clearly, one of the main goals of the marketing is getting people through the casino doors who might not otherwise be there, or at least not as often.

While the casino has put considerable effort into the Spanish-speaking tables, the slots are by far the game of choice among the crowd here. There are scores of penny slots.

"You don't need to spend a lot of money to win," said Lourdes Pena, 26, sounding like a commercial for the casino as she instructed her friend Maria Ramirez, 24 and a gambling rookie, to stick with two slot machines at a time.

Visitors gamble at Buffalo Bill's Resort and Casino in Primm, Nev., Aug. 27, 2011. After the company that ran the trio of casinos in Primm declared bankruptcy in 2009, Primm Valley Casino Resorts is betting that aggressively courting Latinos in Southern California will help lead to success.
(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

But there are times when gambling can feel beside the point. Children run freely through a video arcade, the line for the buffet stretches 100 people back and the area around the bar becomes an impromptu dance floor. Nobody seems to mind.❑

New York subway restored: some suburban impacts

Police tape blocks the entrance to a subway station at Grand Central Terminal as the subway and Metro North trains remain closed down, a result of Hurricane Irene, in New York, Aug. 28, 2011. As Irene moved beyond the city, the authorities expected a lengthy recovery of the public transportation system that would most likely leave commuters stranded on Monday morning.
(Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM
© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK – The New York City subway, whose closing in the lead-up to Tropical Storm Irene was perhaps the most unsettling element of a prodigious storm preparation effort, was back to its usual robust self Monday, with most trains running on a nearly normal schedule.

And other parts of the region's mass transit network were also slowly rumbling back to life.

The Metro-North Railroad, which serves areas of New York and Connecticut, began running some trains on a weekend schedule on its Hudson and Harlem lines, after a morning when the railroad lay dormant. The New Haven line, however, remains out of service because of electrical problem, and there was no immediate timeline for when those trains would be restored.

Metro-North has sustained extensive damage from flooding, fallen trees and mudslides, and repair workers have had trouble reaching the tracks because of blocked roadways.

New Jersey Transit has also suspended its train service, although its buses and light rail were operating. The agency said Monday that it did know when train service would be restored.

The Long Island Rail Road was running service on six branches, but four of its lines were not operating. Full service on the Port Washington branch has been restored.

All of the subway's 22 lines, including express and local service, were restored, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. While the agency said fewer trains ran than in a regular morning rush, anecdotal reports from commuters suggested that most routes were operating smoothly. Every station in the system is currently being served by trains.

Still, other parts of the region's mass transit network remained partly paralyzed for the morning commute, and many commuters from New York's northern and western suburbs had to make do without the suburban rail networks that carry thousands of workers to hospitals, investment houses and corner bodegas alike.Area airports reopened Monday morning. Amtrak canceled all of its trains between Boston and Philadelphia, and Acela Express service was not running. The PATH train was operating between New Jersey and New York, and bridges and tunnels were open to traffic. Although the city escaped a punishing blow from the storm, New York's ability to return to its usual humming self will rely largely on how quickly its lifeblood mass transit system can recover.

"Transit is the economic life, the cultural life of the city," said Mitchell Moss, director of the Rudin Center at New York University. "If you don't have that infrastructure working, you can't have a meal, you can't make a living, you can't get a prescription filled."❑

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Gadhafi family members flee to Algeria

D. D. KIRKPATRICK
ROD NORDLAND
RICK GLADSTONE
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TRIPOLI, Libya – The wife and three children of Moammar Gadhafi fled to Algeria on Monday, the Algerian Foreign Ministry said, the first official news on the whereabouts of any members of the Gadhafi family since Gadhafi was routed from his Tripoli fortress by Libyan rebel forces a week ago.

In a brief announcement carried by Algeria's official news agency APS, the ministry said Gadhafi's wife, Safiya, daughter Aisha, and sons Hannibal and Mohammed, accompanied by their children, "entered Algeria at 08:45 a.m. through the Algeria-Libyan border."

The announcement gave no further details.

The whereabouts of Gadhafi himself remained unknown, along with those of his other sons, most notably Seif al-Islam, his second-in-command; Khamis, head of an elite paramilitary brigade; or Muatassim, a militia commander and Gadhafi's national security adviser.

A rebel spokesman said Sunday that Khamis Gadhafi may have been killed Saturday, but that no positive identification had been made. Gadhafi's vexing vanishing act has been the looming question in Libya since the alliance of Libyan rebels invaded Tripoli on Aug. 20, overran his heavily fortified compound Aug. 23 and finally established control after days of bloody urban street fighting.

Nasgb Abd, 20, a medicine student, has her face painted with the colors of the pre-Gadhafi flag during a demonstration against at the Green Square in Tripoli, Libya, late Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. Gadhafi's wife and three of his children fled Libya to neighboring Algeria on Monday, firm evidence that the longtime leader has lost his grip on the country.
(AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

The rebels have said they will not consider their victory complete until they capture or kill the colonel, who has ruled Libya for 42 years and was the Arab world's longest-ruling leader.

Algeria is the only Libyan neighbor that has not recognized the National Transitional Council, the rebel government, as the legitimate rulers of Libya.

The news from Algeria came as rebel forces in Tripoli took visible new steps toward installing themselves as the country's official government, signing new energy deals with ENI, Italy's biggest oil company, and permitting France and Britain, the leading countries in a NATO alliance that assisted the rebel movement, to send advance teams into Tripoli with the intent of re-establishing their embassies here.

An announcement by Britain's Foreign Office said in a statement that a small team of diplomatic and technical staff was "now on the ground in Tripoli as part of the preparations for that wider diplomatic presence."

Rebel officials, meanwhile, appealed Monday for NATO forces to continue the air campaign that has greatly weakened Gadhafi's forces, saying they remain a threat.

"I call for continued protection from NATO and its allies from this tyrant," Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, the head of the council, as the rebel administration is known, said at a meeting of alliance defense chiefs in Doha, Qatar, on Monday, news reports said.

He spoke as rebel forces were reported to be approaching Surt, Gadhafi's hometown. Surt, regarded as a last bastion of support for the dictator, is more than 200 miles east of Tripoli on the Mediterranean coast. News reports said the rebels were seeking a negotiated surrender of the town.

For its part, NATO seemed intent on continuing its mission, mandated by a U.N. Security Council resolution in March.

'We believe the Gadhafi regime is near collapse, and we're committed to seeing the operation through to its conclusion,' U.S. Adm. Samuel Locklear, the head of NATO's Joint Operations Command, told a news conference in Doha, according to Reuters.❑

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UN urges progress on nuclear test ban treaty

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called Monday for urgent progress to achieve a world free of nuclear tests and nuclear weapons.

The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has been signed by 182 countries and ratified by 154 of them. But it needs to be ratified by all 44 states identified as nuclear technology holders to enter into force and nine have not yet done so — China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States. "Current voluntary moratoriums on nuclear weapon tests are valuable, yet they are no substitute for a global ban," he said. "This is why it is urgent that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty enters into force as early as possible." U.S. President Barack Obama has long backed ratification, but the administration has put other arms control goals ahead of U.S. Senate approval of the treaty, which faces stiff resistance from Republicans. The Senate is unlikely to consider it before Obama seeks re-election next year.

Ban urged all countries that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty "to do so as a matter of priority." "Every day, more and more people are viewing both nuclear tests and nuclear weapons as dangerous relics of the Cold War," he said.❑

Syrian activists warn against taking up arms

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrians should not take up arms in their uprising against President Bashar Assad or invite foreign military action like the intervention that helped topple the government of Libya, a prominent activist group warned Monday.

There have been scattered reports of some Syrians using automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised weapons to repel government troops, but there appears to have been no organized armed resistance to Assad during the five-month uprising.

Calls to launch such a resistance have been rare, but they were more widely reported than usual by witnesses at protests in Syria on Friday, at the end of a week that saw Tripoli fall to rebels fighting Moammar Gadhafi with the help of NATO.

"While we understand the motivation to take up arms or call for military intervention, we specifically reject this position," said a statement emailed by the Local Coordination Committees, an activist group with a wide network of sources on the ground across Syria. "Militarization would ... erode the moral superiority that has characterized the revolution since its beginning."

The prime minister of Turkey, a former close ally, warned Assad that his regime could face a demise like those in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya if the violent suppression of protests does not stop.

The commentswere some of the bluntest warnings yet and were particularly biting because they came from a leader whose government had extensive diplomatic ties with Syria.

"The only way out is to immediately silence arms and to listen to the people's demands," said Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speaking in his monthly address aired on Turkish TV late Sunday. "We have been watching the fate of those who did not chose this path in the past few months in Tunisia, in Egypt — and now in Libya — as a warning and with sadness."

Human rights groups say more than 2,000 people have been killed since the start of the uprising in March. Witnesses and activists said the crackdown continued Monday as Syrian security forces pursuing anti-government protesters stormed several towns and villages, killing at least six people — including a child — and wounding many others during raids and house-to-house searches.

The largest operation appeared to be in Sarameen in the northern Idlib province, where the London-based Observatory for Human Rights said five people were killed and more than 60 wounded. One person also died during raids in Qara, a suburb of the capital, Damascus.

Similar raids were reported in the village of Heet near the border with Lebanon, along with a military build-up just outside the central town of Rastan, which has become a hotbed of dissent against Assad.

The Syrian government has placed severe restrictions on the media and expelled foreign reporters, making it nearly impossible to independently verify witness accounts.Syria's opposition has no clear leadership or platform beyond the demands for more freedom and for Assad to step down, and several attempts to form a national council have failed because of disagreements between opposition figures, and in particular, divisions between the opposition inside and outside Syria.❑

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian President Bashar Assad, left, reads a letter that he received it from senior Russian envoy Mikhail Bogdanov, right, who expressed Moscow's support for Assad's plans for reform in Syria, at the presidential palace in Damascus, on Monday Aug. 29, 2011.

(AP Photo/SANA)

Aruba TODAY

Germany dims nuclear plants but hopes to keep lights on

ELISABETH ROSENTHAL
© 2011 New York Times

BIBLIS, Germany – Not since the grim period after World War II has Germany had significant blackouts, but it is now bracing for that possibility after shutting down half its nuclear reactors practically overnight.

Nuclear plants have long generated nearly a quarter of Germany's electricity. But after the tsunami and earthquake that sent radiation spewing from Fukushima, half a world away in Japan, the government disconnected the eight oldest of Germany's 17 reactors – including the two in this drab factory town – within days. Three months later, with a new plan to power the country without nuclear energy and a growing reliance on renewable energy, Parliament voted to close them permanently.

There are plans to retire the remaining nine reactors by 2022.

As a result, electricity producers are scrambling to ensure an adequate supply. Customers and companies are nervous about whether their lights and assembly lines will stay up and running this winter. Economists and politicians argue over how much prices will rise.

"It's easy to say, 'Let's just go for renewables,' and I'm quite sure we can someday do without nuclear, but this is too abrupt," said Joachim Knebel, chief scientist at Germany's prestigious Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.

He characterized the government's shutdown decision as "emotional" and pointed out that on most days, Germany has survived this experiment only by importing electricity from neighboring France and the Czech Republic, which generate much of their power with nuclear reactors.

A nuclear power plant near Philippsburg, Germany. Germany, which has not suffered blackouts since the grim years after World War II, is now bracing for that possibility after shutting down half its nuclear reactors practically overnight.
(Benjamin Kilb/The New York Times)

Then there are real concerns that the plan will jettison efforts to rein in man-made global warming, since whatever nuclear energy's shortcomings, it is low in emissions. If Germany, the world's fourth-largest economy, falls back on dirty coal-burning plants or uncertain supplies of natural gas from Russia, isn't it trading a potential risk for a real one?

The International Energy Agency, generally a fan of Germany's green-leaning energy policy, has been critical. Laszlo Varro, head of the agency's gas, coal and power markets division, called the plan "very, very ambitious, though it is not impossible, since Germany is rich and technically sophisticated."

Even if Germany succeeds in producing the electricity it needs, "the nuclear moratorium is very bad news in terms of climate policy," Varro said. "We are not far from losing that battle, and losing nuclear makes that unnecessarily difficult."

The government counters that it is prepared to make huge investments in improving energy efficiency in homes and factories as well as in new clean power sources and transmission lines. So far, there have been no blackouts.

Juergen Grossmann, chief executive of the German energy giant RWE, which owns two closed reactors here in Biblis, about 40 miles south of Frankfurt, expressed skepticism.

"Germany, in a very rash decision, decided to experiment on ourselves," he said. "The politics are overruling the technical arguments."

Germany's planners believed they could forgo nuclear energy in large part because of the country's remarkable progress in renewable energy, which now accounts for 17 percent of its electricity output, a number the government estimates will double in 10 years.

On days when the offshore wind turbines spin full tilt, Germany produces more electricity from renewable sources than it uses, according to European energy monitors.

Germany has "exceeded everyone's expectations on renewable power," said Varro, showing that it could be cost effective and reliable.❑

BVI shuts popular dive site after ship grounds

ROAD TOWN, British Virgin Islands (AP) — The most popular dive site in the British Virgin Islands was closed to visitors Monday after a cargo ship ran aground in the Caribbean marine park.

Joseph Smith Abbott, director of the islands' National Parks Trust, said the Wreck of the RMS Rhone park would be closed until further notice.

The local disaster management agency was investigating the accident and drawing up a plan to get the Tropical Shipping company's ship off the rocks.

Chris Haycraft, managing director of Island Shipping and Trading, Tropical Shipping's agents in the British territory, said the cargo ship was headed from Tortola to St. Maarten when it crashed into the rocks about 10 p.m. Sunday.

There are a few visible holes in the ship's hull, but there doesn't seem to be any leakage of fuel or oil, said Kevin Rowlette, a towing company employee who examined the grounded vessel.

The sunken steamer RMS Rhone at the heart of the park was not hit by the grounded ship. It is the remains of a British mail ship that sank with 125 people aboard in 1869.❑

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Lockerbie bomber focus of new tensions

D. D. KIRKPATRICK
ROD NORDLAND
ALAN COWELL
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TRIPOLI, Libya – Scottish authorities Monday endorsed a Libyan rebel decision not to extradite Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, the only person convicted in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, who was released from a Scottish prison two years ago on the ground that he was near death.

His hero's welcome in Libya and lengthy survival has been a source of frustration to the United States, which counted 189 citizens among the Lockerbie bombing's 270 dead. As the Libyan revolution has unfolded, U.S. lawmakers and politicians have been intensifying calls for his return, hoping for a fuller accounting of the crime and the Gadhafi government's role in it.

But Sunday, a few hours before CNN reported that al-Megrahi appeared to be near death at his Tripoli villa, the justice minister of the rebels' National Transitional Council equated an extradition of al-Megrahi – or any Libyan citizens – with a betrayal characteristic of the hated and fugitive dictator, Moammar Gadhafi.

"Al-Megrahi has already been judged once and he will not be judged again," the minister, Mohammed al-Alagi, told reporters in Tripoli, according to Reuters. "We do not hand over Libyan citizens. Gadhafi does."

Alex Salmond, Scotland's first minister, said that based on statements from the National Transitional Council, the new interim government of the Libyan rebels, it was clear that "following their own laws, there was never any intention of agreeing to such extradition," nor was there any plan in Scotland, which had jurisdiction over al-Megrahi's trial, to demand extradition.

The developments touched on one of the most abrasive issues in years to emerge between Britain and the United States, and threatened to reignite anger over the case on both sides of the Atlantic.

On Sunday, Nic Robertson of CNN reported that he had found al-Megrahi at his villa in Tripoli, and CNN broadcast images of a frail man lying unconscious in an oxygen mask.

"We just give him oxygen," a man identified as al-Megrahi's son, Khaled, said in the broadcast. "Nobody gives us any advice. There is no doctor. There is nobody to ask. We don't have any phone line to call anybody."❑

Medvedev sets Russian election for December

SETH MYDANS
© 2011 New York Times

MOSCOW – President Dmitry Medvedev on Monday set a Dec. 4 date for a parliamentary election that will almost certainly be dominated by the ruling United Russia party and will set the stage for a presidential election early next year.

But Medvedev's announcement was overshadowed by the continuing political intrigue between him and his mentor, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, over which of them will run for president.

The three minority parties in Parliament – the Communists, the Liberal Democrats and A Just Russia – have had little impact in the 450-seat Duma, the lower house of Parliament, where United Russia holds a two-thirds majority.

In past contests the ruling party has taken nothing for granted, and it is expected to use all the levers of power to ensure that it maintains the margin that has allowed it to pass legislation at will.

"I would very much like our next Duma to reflect the political preferences of the largest possible number of citizens," Medvedev told the leaders of registered parties gathered at the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, left, listens to parliament speaker Boris Gryzlov at a residence outside Black Sea resort of Spchi on Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Monday set Dec. 4 as the date for elections to the State Duma, the powerful lower house of parliament that has been dominated by Kremlin loyalists since the last vote.
(AP Photo/Mikhail Klimentyev)

Medvedev was Putin's choice to replace him as president when Putin reached the limit of two consecutive terms four years ago. The choice enabled Putin to effectively remain the country's most powerful figure – as the prime minister chosen by Medvedev.

The two men, who have made elaborate gestures of comradeship, have appeared to enjoy offering tantalizing hints as the nation waits to hear from them who is likely to be its president for the next four years.

Still, a new element has emerged in the contest: Mikhail D. Prokhorov, one of Russia's richest men and the owner of the New Jersey Nets NBA team, who has taken over leadership of a small Western-oriented party known as the Right Cause. This month, Prokhorov, who has never held political office before, said he would consider accepting the post of prime minister – but only if he liked the agenda of the incoming president.❑

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He's not a time-traveler, he just plays one on TV

JOHN BARROWMAN
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I'm a bad flier. But the aircraft itself is fascinating to me and I have actually read a lot about planes. But as far as being a passenger, I'm never totally relaxed.

People who watch "Torchwood," or actually any show, associate the characters on it with the actors. So when people see me at an airport or on the plane with them, they don't see John Barrowman, the actor. Instead, they expect me to have a lot of the same qualities as my character, Capt. Jack Harkness, the immortal, time-traveling guy and leader of a secret organization called Torchwood that saves the world from aliens.

I get it. But, man, I'm not that guy.

When the show was moved to the United States with Starz this year, I was flying back and forth from Britain a lot while I was looking for a home in the States.

I've actually had seatmates ask me to hold their hands during rocky flights. I oblige, but little do they know that I'm really the guy who wants to scream for my mom to hold my hand. I do find helping someone else calms me down. As does alcohol.

I fly Virgin Atlantic a lot and the service is always incredible. The attendants really believe in customer service. But they believe in it so much it was almost a problem for me.

The flight I was taking was really turbulent and an attendant could see that I was getting nervous. She came over to me and was being really solicitous. Passengers were looking at me kind of weird, like, "What's wrong with this guy?" I finally asked her if she could grab a magazine and pretend she was showing me something.

There's always that fear that some sci-fi fan is on board and will shoot video and plaster it up on YouTube with me whimpering like a 2-year-old girl. The producers might frown on that.

I do, however, love our fans, and don't mind signing autographs in airports or on planes. Several years ago, I was flying from London to Orlando, Fla. Most of the passengers were on holiday for Easter weekend. There were tons of children on board.

The attendant came up to me and said passengers saw me come on the plane and were talking about me.

During the flight, the attendants were going to do some games and raffles with the kids. She wondered if I would help out and play the role of Captain Jack.

It was a lot of fun, especially when they asked me to make an announcement as Captain Jack. I got on the speaker and said: "Ladies and gentleman, this is Captain Jack Harkness. Welcome. Let me assure you, there are no aliens on board." I think I heard a couple of folks muttering, "Thank God."

The kid's drawing contest was pretty funny, since a few of them drew Captain Jack with the Easter Bunny. Maybe that will make it on a show.

Science-fiction fans have very strong opinions about things. Actually, everything. A lot of characters on our show have been killed. Well, actually, everyone but me and Eve (the actress Eve Myles) has been killed off. When Ianto Jones, my love interest, died last season, a lot of fans were really angry.

I was flying in Britain on a small puddle-jumper and was seated next to a fan. Everything was great and the guy seemed really polite.

Then he started talking about Ianto, and wouldn't stop. I wanted to say, "Dude, seriously, Ianto's not real." But didn't.

I also wanted to throw myself out the window. But unlike Captain Jack, I'm not immortal, so that wasn't an option either.

Q. How often do you fly?

A. It depends on my schedule, sometimes four times a week, or sometimes twice a month. Q. What's your least favorite airport?A. Los Angeles. The customs agents make you feel like a criminal.

Q. Of all the places you've been, what's the best?

A. Rome. The Appian Way was amazing.

Q. What's your secret airport vice?

A. I hate to admit it, but I have taken a blanket from a plane for my dogs.❑

John Barrowman at the Warner Bros. Studios, in an undated handout photo. Barrowman does not enjoy flying, but on flights people expect him to act like Capt. Jack Harkness, the daring character he plays on the TV show "Torchwood."

(The New York Times)

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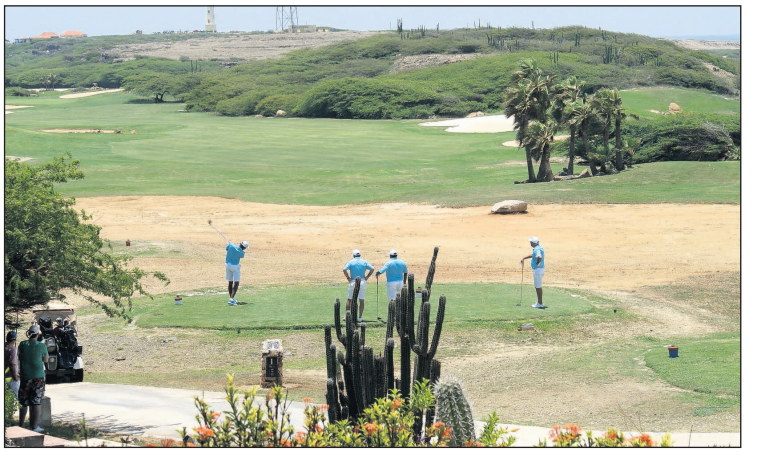

WEST PUNT – The Aruba International Pro Am 2011 enjoyed two days of perfect golf, at the PGA championship golf course of Tierra del Sol Golf Resort, Country Club & Spa.

The shotgun starts, on two consecutive days featured morning and afternoon rounds with a lavish brunch spread at Ventans del Mar restaurant offered to morning golfers returning mid-day and to afternoon golfers before setting out to play.

With a brand new Mimi Copper offered for the hole in one, handsome engraved trophies and great gifts for closest to the pin, and the longest drive, the Aruba International Pro Am under the direction of golf professional Adam Williamson attracted a total of 31 nicely uniformed teams, from Colombia, Curacao, Brazil, Bermuda, Bolivia, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, USA and Aruba, including a great number of press members.

The Aruba Tourism Authority helped put together the event, now in its 17th year, sponsored by Balashi Beer, AWA & Chill Balashi, Diamonds International, DUFRY, Fofoti Tour & Transfer, Tiara Air, Coca Cola, TropicCars, Compra NV and Aruba Aloe.

Pictured here the shotgun start at Tierra Del Sol. ❑

Aruba TODAY

Michael Tchong inspires and challenges local students

Oranjestad – Aruban-born international trend spotter and tracker, Michael Tchong, was entrusted with a daunting task, that of speaking to local college students concerning their future. Charisse Hoen-Daly, Coordinator Office of Student Affairs, University of Aruba, was the local official who conceived the special event in which three local schools, including the vocational high school, the teacher's training college and the university assembled to be inspired.

The students and their teachers congregated at the EPI auditorium, under the slogan: You are responsible for creating your own future. The four interactive sessions with Tchong involved over 1,000 students.

Tchong who is a reinvention specialist, used his expertise in marketing, media and technology to help his audience grasp how massive waves, dubbed "Ubertrends," are reshaping society.

As he talked he illustrated the opportunities these societal upheavals presented, challenging the students to choose a future occupation, which ignites their passion and motivates them, while exploring innovative cross-disciplinary products and services that successfully capitalize on market waves.

Tchong's talked vividly, showing the students how marketers are adapting to fast-moving cultural changes, with a special emphasis on social media.

The seminar was made possible via the generous collaboration of a number of sponsors among them the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, where Tchong stayed during his short island visit.

Tchong's company, Ubercool® is a branded entertainment service that brings innovation to life by combining offline immersive, infotainment events with targeted online social engagement. The company's trend-propelled media and entertainment properties are designed to help its target audience constituencies leverage

key market trends. Michael Tchong is the founder of Ubercool and a trend-tracking inspirational speaker who helps transform audiences worldwide.

Pictured here Tchong and EPI students, as well as Chong at the Radisson, with Germaine Wever and Lily Polsbroek, welcoming him to his home away from home!❑

Toes in the sand ceremony for Samantha and Salvatore

ORANJESTAD - Families and friends came together in Aruba on August 23, 2011 to celebrate the wedding of Samantha Hassell to Salvatore Pedagno, of New York. The Cabenda-Hassell family and Pedagno family would like to congratulate the newlyweds on their special day!❑

Westin vs Hyatt in a friendly soccer match

NOORD -- Last week, the associates of the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba and the Hyatt Regency Aruba took a break from the hospitality arena to have a little fun in the soccer arena. A just-for-fun match between the two resorts was held at the Frans Figueroa Stadium in Noord.

Fellow associates, family, and friends showed up to cheer the teams on. Westin took an early lead, but Hyatt came back and scored three in a row, with a final score of 3 to 1 for team Hyatt.❑

Aruba TODAY

Club Hipsz is now officially open

ORANJESTAD – The fun club located adjacent to the Eagle Bowling Palace is now open. Aruba's First Couple of Salsa Sabine van Leuken and Regie Bermudez orchestrated a glitzy official opening ceremony for the club followed by a dance party with Robert Jeandor Y Su Solo Banda Show. The Minister of Health & Sport, Dr. Richard Visser officiated over the ribbon cutting – dance is a form of very healthy sport -- followed by the inauguration of the dance floor by salsa experts Regie & Sabine. Both dance-instructors / entrepreneurs thanked their extended support systems, family members and friends for helping realize their dream of a dance-club affiliated with their company Salsa Aruba.

Club Hipsz opened for a soft run-in period a few weeks ago and features great music, a sexy ambiance, cool drinks and beautiful people, state of the art sound and light systems and the largest dance floor on the island, in a smoke free, fully air-conditioned, friendly environment.

Club Hipsz Director of Operation is Mitchell Ho Asjoe, Aruba Salsa's first student, and now a full time dance instructor and manager.

The club has been a work of art in progress for Sabine & Regie who teach all types of Latin dance styles such as Merengue, Bachata and Latin ChaChaCha, specializing in elegant and stylized Salsa! ❑

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to 5pm.

Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just $24.

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Robles disqualified, Richardson wins 110 hurdles

Cuba's Dayron Robles, right, makes contact with China's Liu Xiang in the Men's 110m Hurdles final, at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. Robles was disqualified after the race.

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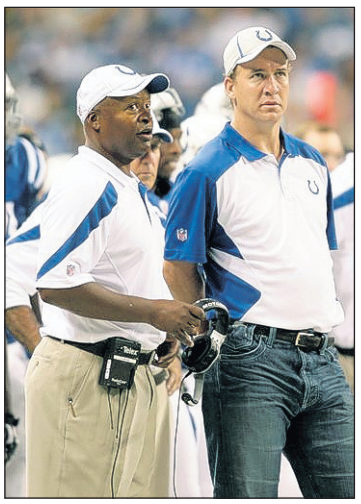
SPORTS Aruba TODAY

Colts activate QB Peyton Manning



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, right, talks with head coach Jim Caldwell during the second quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the Green Bay Packers in Indianapolis, Friday, Aug. 26, 2011.
Associated Press

MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Peyton Manning was activated from the physically unable to perform list on Monday, and said it was the next step in his recovery from neck surgery in May.

The Colts quarterback is still not sure when he'll be ready to play a game, however, and would not provide details about what issues must be resolved before the Sept. 11 season-opener at Houston.

"I don't know what HIPAA stands for, but I believe in it and I practice it," Manning joked, referring to the federal law protecting medical privacy. "So, uh, I'll leave it at that."

The team said Manning will practice on a "scripted" and controlled basis with teammates this week.

Continued on Page 21

Mardy Fish returns a shot to Tobias Kamke of Germany during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.
Associated Press
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Jeter, Richardson win gold at world championships

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DAEGU, South Korea (AP) — American training partners Carmelita Jeter and Jason Richardson were two unlikely gold medalists at the athletics world championships Monday.

Jeter because, well, nobody beats the Jamaicans in the 100 meters at major meets these days.

And Richardson because he was an afterthought in the highly anticipated 110 hurdles matchup. He originally captured silver but was stunningly bumped up to champion when Cuban world-record holder Dayron Robles was disqualified for smacking hands not once but twice with Liu Xiang of China over the final few hurdles.

"I can beat Robles' world record," said Richardson, who runs with his distinctive dreadlocks tied into a ponytail. "My next objective is to repeat the same thing in the Olympics."

This was definitely a strange day at the track.

It was supposed to be Allyson Felix's stage as she finished off the first leg of her difficult double, an accomplishment that would have firmly established her as America's biggest track star heading into next year's London Olympics. But Felix couldn't catch Amantle Montsho of Botswana in the 400 final, nudged out at the line.

USA's Carmelita Jeter, center, crosses the finish line ahead of Trinidad's Kelly-Ann Baptiste, left, and Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce in the Women's 400m final at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.

Associated Press

Cuba's Dayron Robles, right, makes contact with China's Liu Xiang, left, during the Men's 110m Hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011. Robles finished first but was later disqualified for making contact with Liu.

There went the shot at the double.

Now, an exhausted Felix turns her attention toward capturing a fourth straight 200 title later in the week.

Jeter's chances at a 100-200 sweep have never looked better, besides the fact she's competing in Felix's signature event and has the Jamaicans riled up.

"We'll see her again," said Jamaican Olympic gold medalist Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who finished fourth to end her run as 100 champion.

Long known as the sprinter who couldn't win on the big stage, the 31-year-old Jeter ended that perception by winning in 10.90 seconds, .07 faster than Veronica Campbell-Brown. She jumped out to an early lead and said she felt as if she had held off the field.

After crossing the finish line, Jeter gazed all around the stadium looking for some kind of tangible proof of what her heart was already telling her — that she did indeed win her first world title.

Then, the camera began trailing Jeter, her image appearing on the big screen. Her name popped up — first. She began screaming, "I did it!" and then fell to the track, bursting into tears. "It's good not to have that jinx, that I can only win bronze medals," said Jeter, who finished third at the worlds in 2007 and '09. "I was just ready. This was just a different night."

Jillian Camarena-Williams captured the first-ever medal for the U.S. in the women's shot put by capturing bronze in an event won by defending champion Valerie Adams of New Zealand.

The race of the night, and possibly even the most compelling of the championships, was the 110 hurdles. It had the three fastest hurdlers in history in the field with Robles, Liu and David Oliver of the United States. Yet it was the unknown Richardson who crashed the party by jumping out fast and beating all but Robles.

A silver medal? Richardson was more than pleased with that.

Traded up to a gold? Now that was almost too good to imagine.

Liu appealed after Robles appeared to bang Liu's hand on several occasions, slowing down the 2004 Olympic gold medalist.

"I am really sorry about the situation. You know competition," Liu said. "Besides, we are good friends."

So are Jeter and Richardson, who train together under coach John Smith.

And soon after making her rounds for various interviews, Jeter was told that Richardson had moved up.

"Jason, you got the gold?" Jeter screamed across a nearly empty room. "You didn't tell me that!"

That's when they hugged, with Smith standing close by.

Smith said he felt that Jeter was on the brink of a breakthrough. She had the world's best time this season, but was lacking in confidence, given her track record at big races. Smith told her she had worked too hard to throw it all away, to believe she could do this.

She did.

"It was her time," Smith said.

This appeared to be Felix's time as well. Hardly known as a 400 runner, she only got better as the race went along and was closing fast on Montsho before simply running out of track.❑

Tony Martin takes Vuelta time trial

SALAMANCA, Spain (AP) — Tony Martin of Germany was quickest in the Spanish Vuelta's only individual time trial Monday, while British cyclist Christopher Froome scorched his way into the overall lead on a hot, testing day in the season's last classic. Bradley Wiggins was favored to take the leader's red jersey after the speed test but settled for third behind Martin and Team Sky teammate Froome, whose overall lead over Danish cyclist Jakob Fuglsang is 12 seconds after 10 stages.

Martin pushed through wind and temperatures of 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit) to complete the 29-mile test in 55 minutes, 54 seconds to roll into Salamanca's Plaza de Mayor square as an unlikely victor.

Martin, who remained more than an hour behind Froome's overall lead, was 59 seconds quicker than Froome and 1:22 ahead of Wiggins, who is returning from a broken collarbone sustained at the Tour de France.

Froome said he was "over the moon." "I really wasn't expecting that today. I went out there just to have a good solid ride and stay in contention with the overall leaders," the Kenyan-born Briton said. "I just had a fantastic day and somehow I've ended up in the leader's jersey. It's a dream come true."

Vincenzo Nibali of Italy finished 15th to drop 31 seconds behind Froome's overall time of 38:09:13 into fourth. Swedish cyclist Fredrik Kessiakoff trailed by 34 seconds in fifth overall ahead of Maxime Monfort of Belgium, who was 59 seconds behind.

Froome vaulted from 14th in the overall table to first after Dutch rider Bauke Mollema surrendered the position and slipped to seventh by finishing 25th in the time trial, 3:09 behind Martin. ❑

NL Roundup

Hart fires Brewers over Cubs, 3-2

Milwaukee Brewers' Corey Hart watches his two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Corey Hart homered for the second time in as many days as the Milwaukee Brewers swept the Chicago Cubs with a 3-2 win on Sunday.

Zack Greinke (13-5) improved to 10-0 at Miller Park and didn't allow a hit until Marlon Byrd's fifth-inning effort. In the bottom of the inning, Greinke singled, stole a base for the first time in his career and scored on Hart's blast.

Greinke struck out seven, scattering four hits and two walks.

John Axford allowed a solo homer to Tyler Colvin in the ninth and third baseman Casey McGehee bobbled two balls before tagging out Byrd to end it. Axford got his 40th save.

The Brewers completed their second straight three-game sweep over the Cubs to improve to 21-5 this month, tying the franchise mark for most wins in a month set in June 1978.

Cubs starter Casey Coleman (2-7) took the loss.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 1

At Phoenix, Ian Kennedy pitched seven effective innings to become the National League's first 17-game winner and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the San Diego Padres for their sixth straight victory.

Collin Cowgill hit his first career homer during a four-hit game. He hit a solo shot off Cory Luebke (5-7) in the second inning and added a run-scoring double off Erik Hamren in the eighth.

The NL West-leading Diamondbacks didn't need much more with Kennedy (17-4) pitching.

The right-hander settled in after giving up a homer to Orlando Hudson in the second inning, allowing one run or less for the 13th time this season to complete the three-game sweep.

Astros 4, Giants 3, 11 innings

At San Francisco, Matt Downs delivered the winning hit in the 11th inning to give the Houston Astros a win at the stumbling San Francisco Giants.

Jose Altuve got things going with a one-out double against Ramon Ramirez (2-3) and Downs followed with a single up the middle. Altuve was forced into action after slugger Carlos Lee left in the top of the ninth with a sprained right ankle sustained sliding into second on a double.

Mark Melancon (7-4) pitched the 10th and got the win despite allowing Mark DeRosa's tying single. David Carpenter finished for his first career save.

The reigning World Series champions fell four games behind first-place Arizona in the NL West.

Reds 5, Nationals 4

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto led off the 14th inning with his second home run of the game, lifting the Cincinnati Reds over the Washington Nationals.

Votto hit a full-count pitch from Collin Balester (1-3) into the left-field bleachers to push the Reds over .500 for the first time since July 3. His second career game-ending homer sent the Nationals to a sixth straight loss, tying their season high.

Johnny Cueto and five Reds relievers combined for 19 strikeouts, tying the team record.

Bill Bray (4-2) allowed one hit in the 14th to get the win.

Washington manager Davey Johnson and bench coach Pat Corrales and Reds manager Dusty Baker all were ejected.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 4

At St Louis, Kyle Lohse went a workmanlike five innings for his 100th career win as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Lohse (12-8) gave up four runs, two of them earned. He allowed six hits, struck out four and walked two.

Lohse also put the Cardinals ahead to stay, getting an infield single in the fourth and scoring on Allen Craig's sacrifice fly for a 5-4 lead.

Pittsburgh has lost four of its last six and fell a season-high 18 games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee. Lohse became the 36th active pitcher to reach 100-wins. He has 106 losses in his nine-year career. Jason Motte picked up his first save of the season with a perfect ninth.

Jeff Karstens (9-8) gave up five earned runs in 3 2-3 innings.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 6

At Los Angeles, Kevin Kouzmanoff drove in his first four runs since joining Colorado this week, and the Rockies needed five relievers to hold off the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kouzmanoff hit a three-run double in the first inning as Colorado took a 5-0 lead. He later singled home a run, and the six-year veteran tied a career high with four RBIs.

The Rockies got Kouzmanoff from Oakland on Tuesday for either a player to be named or cash. The Dodgers had won five in a row.

Jhoulys Chacin (11-10) gave up four runs, six hits and five walks in five-plus innings. Rafael Betancourt bounced back from Saturday's blown save, getting three outs to record his fourth in eight chances.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-2) gave up five runs and six hits over four innings. ❑

Eagles give QB Vick a $100M deal

In this Jan. 9, 2011, photo, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick (7) runs from a tackler during the first half of an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Green Bay Packers in Philadelphia.

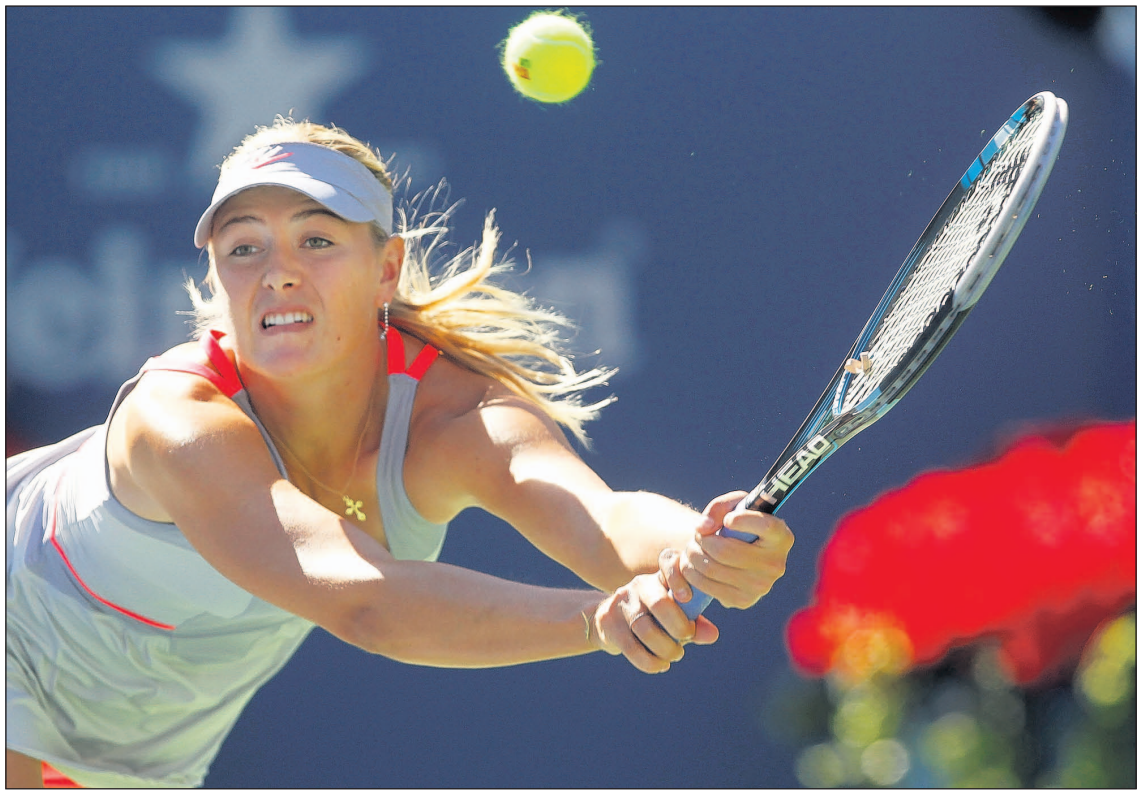
By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick is really back on top now.

Vick and the Philadelphia Eagles agreed on a six-year contract on Monday that again makes the Pro Bowl quarterback one of the highest-paid players in the NFL.

A source familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press the deal is worth $100 million, including about $40 million guaranteed. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because terms weren't released.

Vick has come a long way since spending 18 months in federal prison on dogfighting charges. He led the Eagles to the NFC East title last year, was the starting quarterback in the Pro Bowl and was the AP Comeback Player of the Year. "I'm very happy we were able to reach an agreement with Michael on this long-term contract," Eagles coach Andy Reid said in a statement. "It's a product of all the hard work Michael has done to better himself over the last couple of years, both on and off the field. I'm very proud that he has been able to achieve success again in this league, but he'll be the first one to tell you that there is a lot of work yet to be done by him and this team as a whole.❑



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a ball to Heather Watson of the United Kingdom during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.

Associated Press

Sharapova wins, Kvitova loses on Day 1 at US Open

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Maria Sharapova came back from a set and a break down against 19-year-old Heather Watson of Britain to win 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the opening round of the U.S. Open on Monday.

"It's just a matter of belief within myself, that no matter how well or bad or good I'm playing, or my opponent is playing, I know I can tough it out," the No. 3-seeded Sharapova said after her 2 1/2-hour victory. "No matter what the situation is, I have the belief."

That self-confidence comes not merely from her success in three-setters this season, but also from three Grand Slam titles, including the 2006 U.S. Open. It's the sort of track record the 102nd-ranked Watson hopes to have one day; Monday's match was only her fifth at a major tournament.

Sharapova won six Grand Slam matches at Wimbledon alone this summer, reaching the final there before losing to Petra Kvitova. Fresh off that triumph, Kvitova — a 21-year-old from the Czech Republic seeded No. 5 in Flushing Meadows — failed to follow it up, flopping at the U.S. Open with a 7-6 (3), 6-3 loss to 48th-ranked Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania.

Kvitova is the first reigning Wimbledon women's champion to lose her first match at the U.S. Open in the same season. Only three times had the Wimbledon winner bowed out as early as the third round in New York: Sharapova in 2004, Conchita Martinez in 1994, and Billie Jean King in 1973.

"This is something new for me," Kvitova said about her new status as Grand Slam champion. "I've felt a little pressure."

She was the only seeded woman to exit on Day 1 of the year's last major tournament, joined on the way out by No. 15 Viktor Troicki of Serbia, a 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 loser against Alejandro Falla of Colombia.

At night, 2000 and 2001 U.S. Open champion Venus Williams played her first match in two months and beat 91st-ranked Vesna Dolonts of Russia 6-4, 6-3. Williams hit six aces and 28 total winners against the weary Dolonts, who spent 12 hours traveling from Moscow on Monday after having flights canceled Saturday and Sunday because of Tropical Storm Irene.

"My game is built on my serve, and of course, I like to follow it up with a lot of aggressive play," said Williams, who pulled out of recent tuneup tournaments because of a virus. "And it's great to see a lot of those balls land in."

In the day's last match in Arthur Ashe Stadium, 16-time major winner Roger Federer was to face 54th-ranked Santiago Giraldo of Colombia.

Early winners included No. 8 Mardy Fish of the United States, who beat Tobias Kamke of Germany 6-2, 6-2, 6-1; No. 9 Tomas Berdych of Germany, the 2010 Wimbledon runner-up; No. 13 Richard Gasquet of France; No. 22 Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine; and No. 27 Marin Cilic of Croatia.

Advancing along with Sharapova to the second round were No. 2 Vera Zvonareva of Russia, a finalist last year at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open; 16-year-old Madison Keys — the youngest and, at 455th, lowest-ranked woman in the draw — who beat 37-year-old fellow American Jill Craybas 6-2, 6-4; and No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who beat her younger sister Urszula Radwanska 6-2, 6-3.

AP Sources: NBA, players talk Wednesday

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two people with knowledge of the plans say the lead negotiators for the NBA owners and players will meet Wednesday for just the second time since the lockout began.

Commissioner David Stern, deputy commissioner Adam Silver and San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt, who leads the labor relations committee, will take part, as will players' association executive director Billy Hunter and union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers, two people told the Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because the talks are supposed to be confidential.

The sides last met Aug. 1, exactly one month after the lockout was imposed. Stern was disappointed by the players' position and has said there must be progress by Labor Day. The sides remain far apart on numerous financial issues. Training camps are scheduled to start in October.❑

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Woods to play Fall Series in October near Stanford

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

NORTON, Massachusetts (AP) — Tiger Woods will play the Frys.com Open in California the first week of October, his first time competing in the PGA Tour's Fall Series as he tries to get his game ready for the Presidents Cup.

The Frys.com Open is Oct. 6-9 at CordeValle Golf Club, about 45 minutes south of his alma mater at Stanford. "I always enjoy competing in my home state, and this tournament fits my schedule perfectly," Woods said Monday on his website. "I'm looking forward to seeing some old friends." Woods said a week ago he might add a tournament because of his limited schedule this year brought on by leg injuries. He chose a tournament from the Fall Series that he has never played. The Frys.com Open, in only its fifth year, was one of the more exciting tournaments of the Fall Series last year. Rocco Mediate holed out for eagle in each of the four rounds, including the 17th hole in the final round, for a one-shot win. It also offers a $5 million purse, the richest among events after the FedEx Cup is over.

"John Fry and his company have supported the tour, and I've heard good things about the event and the golf course," Woods said. "One of my goals this year was to participate in a tournament I hadn't played before. And now I will."

Woods has played only eight PGA Tour events this year because of injuries to his left knee and Achilles' tendon. He went four months without completing a tournament — from the Masters in April to the Bridgestone Invitational in August — so he could make sure his injuries were fully healed. He said at Firestone that his leg felt as good as it had in years. His results raised questions about his golf, however. He tied for 37th at Firestone, then missed the cut at the PGA Championship, the first time he had ever finished outside the top 100 in a major.

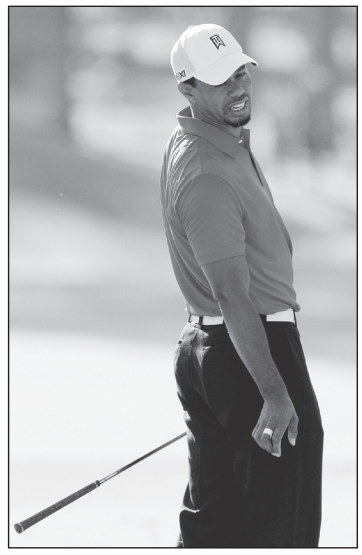
When he plays the Frys.com Open, it will be his first event in six weeks, although Woods is to play in a one-day exhibition in upstate New York on Wednesday to support Notah Begay's charity work.

"It's been a long time between the PGA and Frys, and I'll be anxious to compete," Woods said.

Fred Couples said last week he told Woods he would be a captain's pick for the Presidents Cup, even though he was 28th in the standings and had been out of golf for much of the summer, missing two majors.

Couples said he wanted Woods to play more before the Australian Open in November, a week before the Presidents Cup.

Even though there was speculation about Woods going to Disney or Las Vegas — two tournaments he had won as a rookie — the Frys.com Open had been a possibility all along.❑



Tiger Woods reacts to an approach shot on the 11th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 11, 2011, at the Atlanta Athletic Club in Johns Creek, Ga.
Associated Press

COLTS QB

Continued from Page 17

He is not expected to play in Thursday night's preseason finale at Cincinnati and he reiterated that point Monday.

And it's unclear the extent of what Manning's new workout regimen will be.

"He's been throwing," coach Jim Caldwell said. "It's going to be a bigger amount, and I don't think it needs a whole lot of explanation. The statement speaks for itself."

Team officials have said Manning would practice only when he was cleared by the doctors and when Manning felt comfortable working out. The four-time MVP missed all of training camp at Anderson University, the second time in four seasons that's happened.

When Manning sat out in 2008 after having two surgeries to remove an infected bursa sac in his left knee, was not seen by reporters. This time, after his second surgery in 15 months, he was seen running and throwing passes.

Manning remembered returning to practice just before the final 2008 preseason game, though he did not play against the Bengals that year.

"This was one of my goals all along, to be back before the last preseason game," Manning said. "That gives you two weeks on the field to answer the questions coach Caldwell has and I have."

Manning has started 227 consecutive games, including the playoffs, the second-longest streak in NFL history for quarterbacks behind Brett Favre. He said Monday he was healthy enough to take a snap or play a series or two to keep the streak alive, but that's not what he intends to do.

"I have to be able to play competitively to play because I have too much respect for this game," he said.

"I have to do what's fair for the team."

Three years ago, Manning returned from the knee injury and struggled during the first half of the season. By midseason, Manning was back to his regular form and went on to win his third MVP award.

Indy's franchise quarterback had been on PUP since practice began Aug. 1. League rules require players on the physically unable to perform list to be activated by the team's final cuts, on Sept. 3, or sit out an additional six weeks. That wasn't something the Colts were going to do.

The surgery was expected to keep Manning off the field for six to eight weeks.❑

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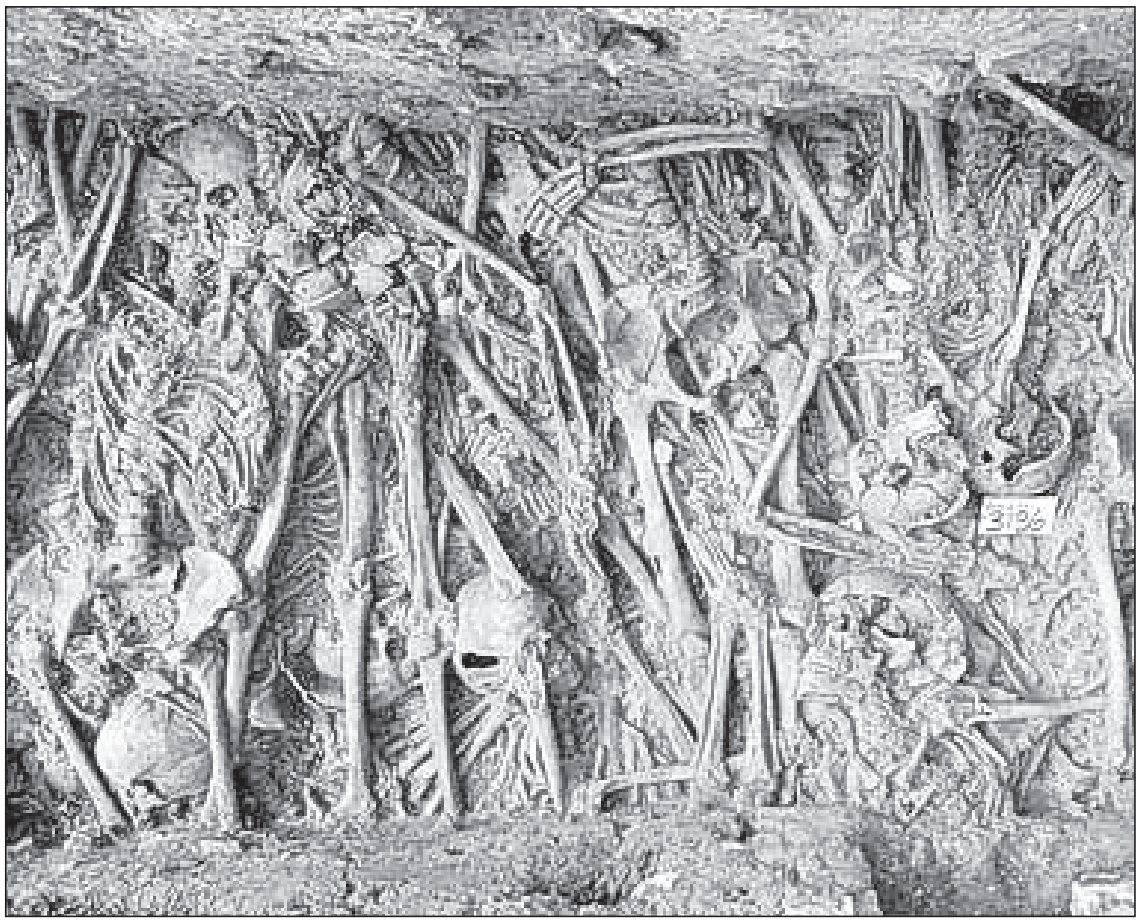
Aruba TODAY

Study: Medieval plague may be extinct

RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The version of plague that caused the Black Death in 14th century Europe may now be extinct, researchers report, but other deadly forms remain in circulation today.



The version of plague that caused the Black Death in 14th century Europe may now be extinct, researchers report, but other deadly forms remain in circulation today.

The plague that ravaged Europe wiped out nearly a third to two-thirds of the population according to various estimates. Its cause was eventually identified as the bacteria Yersinia pestis.

A new study of DNA from people who died of the plague in London has now identified the form of the germ that caused their deaths, the researchers report in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy ofSciences.

The remains of more than 100 plague victims buried between 1348 and 1350 in the East Smithfield burial site showed evidence of a strain of Y. pestis, according to the researchers led by Hendrik N. Poinar of McMaster University in Canada, and Johannes Krause of Tuebingen University in Germany.

"Our data reveal that the Black Death in medieval Europe was caused by a variant of Y. pestis that may no longer exist," the researchers wrote.

That doesn't mean it's safe to relax, noted Ole Georg Moseng of the Institute of Health and Society at the University of Oslo, Norway. Other forms are still dangerous, although it varies by strain, he said.

The germ is carried by fleas. The reasons plague no longer causes widespread deaths are that it is fairly easy to suppress, both by antibiotics and by means of isolation and pesticides, said Moseng, who was not part of the research team.

Since 1954, he noted, there have been yearly outbreaks in Brazil, Congo, Madagascar, Myanmar, Peru, the U.S. and Vietnam.

Virginia Miller, of the Center for Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina, said the findings reconfirm that the Black Death was indeed caused by Y. pestis, but she wasn't surprised the strain was a variant.

Whether Y. pestis was behind the Black Death had been questioned by other researchers in the 1970s and 1980s. This report joins other recent studies that reaffirmed Y. pestis as the cause, Moseng agreed.

While the study was not able to sequence the entire genome of the medieval plague, the amount they were able to study confirmed it is the same disease as the Y. pestis circulating today, Poinar said.

"With any ancient pathogen, understanding why it might have been so virulent in the past is important to be able to predict possible reemergence today," Poinar said. "If it did ... perhaps we might be prepared,"❑

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Protection from blood clot urged

L. NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — New advice for pregnant women: If you are getting a C-section, special inflating boots strapped on your legs may lower the risk of a blood clot. Hospitals already use these compression devices for other major operations, such as hip replacements, and a growing number have begun offering them for at least some of their cesarean deliveries, too.

Now guidelines for the nation's obstetricians say it's time to make the step routine for most C-sections, which account for nearly a third of U.S. births.

The new recommendations promise to raise awareness of what is a silent threat not just for pregnant women but for thousands of other people, too: Blood clots in veins that can masquerade as simple leg pain.

Called a DVT, for deep vein thrombosis, this kind of clot usually starts in the leg or groin. But it can kill if it moves up to the lungs, where it's called a pulmonary embolism. These clots make headlines every few years when seemingly healthy people collapse after long airplane flights or similar prolonged inactivity. Certain surgeries also can trigger a DVT. Earlier this year, tennis star Serena Williams was treated for clots in her lungs discovered after foot surgery and cross-country travel.

Obesity, some types of injuries, even some birth control pills can increase the risk, too.

A woman's risk of a DVT jumps during pregnancy and the six weeks afterward. That's partly because of slower blood flow from the weight gain, and because mom is less active in the last trimester and during those first few weeks of recovery from childbirth.

It is also because pregnancy temporarily changes blood to make it clot more easily.

"This is a consequence of nature's protecting women against the bleeding challenges of childbirth," explains Dr. Andra James of Duke University, who co-authored the new guidelines from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Add a C-section and, like any major surgery, it further increases that risk.

As many as two of every 1,000 pregnant American women will experience a DVT, James says. Fortunately, pregnancy-related deaths are very rare in this country, but when they happen, those clots are one of the leading reasons. Yet too few people even know the warning signs, she says: Pain or swelling in one leg, especially the calf or thigh. Redness or warmth in one spot on the leg. If the clot has reached the lung, shortness of breath or chest pain.

The new guidelines urge obstetricians to closely monitor their patients for DVTs — and to check if they have additional factors that would put them at extra risk. Women who've had a DVT earlier in life, or whose close relatives had one — or who have certain inherited clotting disorders — may need anti-clotting medicines throughout the pregnancy, say the recommendations, published in the September issue of the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology. Then there are those compression devices, which slip over each leg and regularly inflate and deflate, sort of like a massage, to help blood flow more briskly.

The obstetricians' group acknowledges that there have not been large studies with C-sections to prove how much difference the gadgets could make. But it decided to recommend them anyway because in other types of surgery, the devices can cut the clot risk by two-thirds, James says.❑

NASA: Space station may be evacuated by late Nov.

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Astronauts may need to take the unprecedented step of temporarily abandoning the International Space Station if last week's Russian launch accident prevents new crews from flying there this fall.

Until officials figure out what went wrong with Russia's essential Soyuz rockets, there will be no way to launch any more astronauts before the current residents have to leave in mid-November.

The unsettling predicament comes just weeks after NASA's final space shuttle flight. "We have plenty of options," NASA's space station program manager, Mike Suffredini, assured reporters Monday. "We'll focus on crew safety as we always do." Abandoning the space station, even for a short period, would be an unpleasant last resort for the world's five space agencies that have spent decades working on the project. Astronauts have been living aboard the space station since 2000, and the goal is to keep it going until 2020.

Suffredini said flight controllers could keep a deserted space station operating indefinitely, as long as all major systems are working properly. The risk to the station goes up, however, if no one is on board to fix equipment breakdowns. Six astronauts from three countries presently are living on the orbiting complex. Three are due to leave next month; the other three are supposed to check out in mid-November. The Sept. 22 launch of the very next crew — the first to fly in this post-shuttle era — already has been delayed indefinitely. Russia's Soyuz spacecraft have been the sole means of getting full-time station residents up and down for two years.

To keep the orbiting outpost with a full staff of six for as long as possible, the one American and two Russians due to return to Earth on Sept. 8 will remain on board at least an extra week.

As for supplies, the space station is well stocked and could go until next summer, Suffredini said. Atlantis dropped off a year's supply of goods just last month on the final space shuttle voyage. The unmanned craft destroyed Wednesday was carrying 3 tons of supplies.

For now, operations are normal in orbit, Suffredini noted, and the additional week on board for half the crew will mean additional science research.

The Soyuz has been extremely reliable over the decades; this was the first failure in 44 Russian supply hauls for the space station. Even with such a good track record, many in and outside NASA were concerned about retiring the space shuttles before a replacement was ready to fly astronauts. Russian space officials have set up an investigation team and until it comes up with a cause for the accident and a repair plan, the launch and landing schedules remain in question. None of the spacecraft debris has been recovered yet; the wreckage fell into a remote, wooded section of Siberia. The third stage malfunctioned; a sudden loss of pressure apparently was noted between the engine and turbopump.

While a crew may well have survived such an accident because of safety precautions built into the manned version of the rocket, no one wants to take any chances.

One or two unmanned Soyuz launches are on tap for October, one commercial and the other another space station supply run. Those would serve as important test flights before putting humans on board, Suffredini said. NASA considered vacating the space station before, following the space shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003. Back then, shuttles were still being used to ferry some station residents back and forth. Instead, the station got by with two-man crews for three years because of the significant cutback in supplies.❑

This May 23, 2011 file photo released by NASA, shows the International Space Station flying at an altitude of approximately 220 miles, in an image taken by Expedition 27 crew member Paolo Nespoli from the Soyuz TMA-20 following its undocking.

Associated Press

Aruba TODAY

Irene: Wet, deadly and expensive, but no monster

DAVE GRAM
SAMANTHA GROSS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The storm that had been Hurricane Irene crossed into Canada overnight but wasn't yet through with the U.S., where flood waters threatened Vermont towns and New Yorkers feared a commuting nightmare as their transit system, shut down ahead of the storm, was slowly restored.

The storm left millions without power across much of the Eastern Seaboard, left more than 30 people dead and forced airlines to cancel about 9,000 flights. It never became the big-city nightmare forecasters and public officials had warned about, but it still had the ability to surprise.

Many of the worst effects arose from rains that fell inland, not the highly anticipated storm surge along the coasts. Residents of Pennsylvania and New Jersey nervously watched waters rise as hours' worth of rain funneled into rivers and creeks. Normally narrow ribbons of water turned into raging torrents in Vermont and upstate New York late Sunday, tumbling with tree limbs, cars and parts of bridges.

A car lies upside down in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene on Monday, Aug. 29, 2011 in Waterbury, Vt.

Associated Press

President Barack Obama, speaking from the Rose Garden, pledged the federal government would be doing everything in its power to ensure people have what they need to get back on their feet, saying it will take time to recover from the storm.

Hundreds of Vermonters were told to leave their homes after Irene dumped several inches of rain on the landlocked state. Video posted on Facebook showed a 141-year-old covered bridge in Rockingham swept away by the roiling, muddy Williams River. In another video, an empty car somersaulted down a river in Bennington.

Green Mountain Power decided against flooding Montpelier, the capital, to save the earthen Marshfield Dam, about 20 miles up the Winooski River to the northeast. Water levels had stabilized Monday morning but engineers were continuing to monitor the situation, said spokeswoman Dorothy Schnure.

Residents of 350 households were asked to leave as a precaution. Nearly 5 million homes and businesses lost power at some point during the storm. Lights started to come back on for many on Sunday, though it was expected to take days for electricity to be fully restored.Only about 50,000 power customers in New York City went dark, but people there had something else to worry about: getting to work Monday.

The metropolitan area's transit system, shut down because of weather for the first time in its history, was taking many hours to get back on line. Limited bus service began Sunday and New York subway service was partially restored at 6 a.m. Monday. Riders were warned to expect long lines and long waits.

Commuter rail service to Long Island and New Jersey was being partially restored, but train service to northern suburbs was suspended because of flooding and mudslides.

Airports in New York and around the Northeast were reopening to a backlog of hundreds of thousands of passengers whose flights were canceled over the weekend.

Some of New York's yellow cabs were up to their wheel wells in water, and water rushed over a marina near the New York Mercantile Exchange, where gold and oil are traded.

But the New York flooding was not extensive from Irene, whose eye passed over Coney Island and Central Park.❑

Ford workers authorize strike

Derrick Kuzak, Ford Motor Company group vice president, Global Product Development speaks at a news conference in Dearborn, Mich., Monday, Aug. 22, 2011.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Workers at a Ford Motor Co. plant near Kansas City, Missouri, have voted to let their union leaders call a strike against the company.

United Auto Workers members at Ford's Claycomo plant voted 3,049 to 18 in favor of authorizing a strike, local union President Jeff Wright said in an e-mail Monday.

The vote is standard procedure in contract negotiations and doesn't necessarily mean that there will be a strike. UAW President Bob King has said he's not thinking about a work stoppage and is optimistic that both sides can reach a deal without one.

Workers at the Claycomo plant voted on Thursday and Saturday, and were among the first in the company to cast ballots. All Ford workers represented by the UAW will vote on the same issue by Sept. 2.

Contracts between the union and Ford, General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group LLC expire on Sept. 14. Negotiations with all three carmakers are under way.

All three companies are now making money, and King has said workers should share in the newfound profits. He also said the companies must have labor costs that are competitive with Asian rivals, mainly Honda Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp. King also said he'll focus on profit sharing in the talks instead of the traditional hourly pay raises. He said the paychecks will have to be much larger than workers got earlier this year.

Technically the UAW can strike only at Ford over the issue of wages. Strikes over pay are prohibited at GM and Chrysler under terms of both companies' government bailouts. Ford avoided bankruptcy by taking out massive private loans.

The negotiations are the first since Chrysler and GM accepted government aid and emerged from bankruptcy in 2009. The contracts will set wages and benefits for 111,000 UAW members nationwide and pay levels for manufacturing jobs in the automobile and other industries.

Ford has the highest total labor cost in the industry at $58 per hour, compared with Toyota's $55, according to the Center for Automotive Research. All three companies want to lower their costs to get closer to the competition.

Many Ford workers want concessions made in 2007 and 2009 restored, and they are angry that white-collar workers got bonuses this year and raises last year while factory workers gave up pay increases. They're also unhappy about CEO Alan Mulally's $26.5 million pay package for 2010.

Ford factory workers got $5,000 profit-sharing checks earlier this year. The company made $4.95 billion in the first half of the year.❑

In this Aug. 26, 2011 photo, shoppers unload their items at Costco in Mountain View, Calif. Consumers rebounded in July to lift spending after the first decline in 20 months. The boost is likely to ease fears that the U.S. economy is on the verge of another recession

Associated Press

Consumer spending rebounds, rose 0.8 percent in July

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer spending grew in July by 0.8 percent, the largest amount in five months. That followed a decline in June and helped ease fears that the U.S. economy is on the verge of another recession. Americans bought more cars and spent more last month to cool their homes during a heat wave. Personal incomes increased 0.3 percent last month, the Commerce Department said. That's slightly higher than the modest 0.2 percent in June, the weakest growth in seven months.

The first look at spending in the second half of the year helped give Wall Street a lift. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 155 points in late-morning trading. The rise in spending added to positive reports that Hurricane Irene didn't do as much damage as feared.

Economists said the spending report was a strong sign that the economy rebounded in July after growing at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent in the first half of the year — the slowest pace since the recession officially ended two years ago.

Consumer spending is important because it accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

July's spending and income figures "significantly alter the outlook for third-quarter GDP growth," said Paul Dales, a senior U.S. economist for Capital Economics. Dales said growth for the July-September quarter is on track for an annual rate of 2.5 percent, up from his previous estimate of 1.5 percent.

Dales noted that the report measured spending ahead of a sell-off on Wall Street in late July and early August, which may force consumers and business to pull back on spending and investment. The stock market has lost 11 percent of its value since July 21.

But even if the early August data are weak, talk of another recession "would seem strange" when the economy appears to be growing more strongly, Dales said.

The economy added 117,000 net jobs in July, twice the number added in each of the previous two months. Spending on retail goods rose faster last month than in any month since March. U.S. automakers rebounded last month to boost factory production by the most since the Japan crisis.

In July, consumer spending rose at a faster pace than income. That means Americans saved less. The savings rate fell to a four-month low of 5 percent, down from 5.5 percent in June. The increase in spending was led by a 1.9 percent jump in purchases of durable goods, products such as autos and appliances that are expected to last at least three years. Spending on non-durable goods rose 0.7 percent.

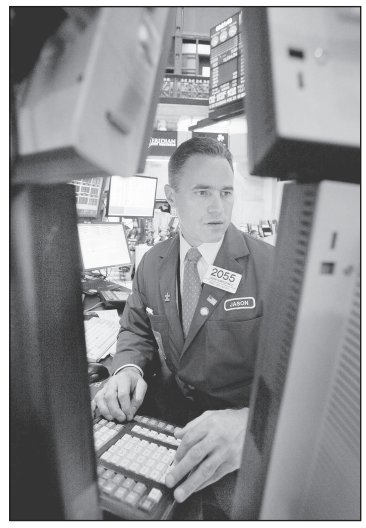
The purchase of services, the biggest spending category, rose 0.7 percent. Much of the increase was because of a jump in electricity use. Many Americans kept their air conditioners running in July to combat a heat wave in most parts of the country.❑

Dow gains 254; Insurers drive stocks higher

CHIP CUTTER
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — So much for Irene.

Stocks rose broadly Monday, led by insurance companies, after it became clear that the tropical storm caused far less damage than many had feared. An increase in U.S. consumer spending also helped, as did as did a rare piece of good news from Greece: a merger of two major banks. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 254 points.



Specialist Jason Hardzewicz works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Aug. 29, 2011.

Associated Press

Trading volume, or the number of shares bought and sold, was the lowest since July 26 as many traders struggled to get to work in Lower Manhattan or were on vacation. Insurance stocks rose sharply as analysts lowered their estimates of how much damage the storm would cause. Allstate Corp. rose 8.5 percent, Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. rose 13 percent, and Travelers Cos. Inc. rose 5.1 percent. Insurance and banking stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 rose 4.2 percent, the most of the 10 company groups that make up the index.

Kinetic Analysis Corp., a consulting firm, sharply lowered its estimate of storm damage from $20 billion late Thursday to $7 billion late Sunday as the storm weakened. Of that amount, insurers would probably have to cover up to $3 billion, Kinetic said. That's less than the $6 billion the industry paid after Hurricane Isabel struck the region in 2003.

"The U.S. came more or less unscathed through the hurricane," said Kim Caughey Forrest, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group. "The cleanup isn't going to cost as much as anticipated."

Utilities companies also rose after it became clear their storm-related expenses would be lower than earlier estimates. Duke Energy Corp., which serves customers in the Carolinas, rose 1.1 percent. New York's biggest utility company, Consolidated Edison Inc., rose 1.3 percent.

The New York Stock Exchange and other major U.S. exchanges opened as usual Monday after making extensive preparations over the weekend. At the NYSE, executives brought in dozens of cots so employees could sleep there to be ready for the opening bell.❑

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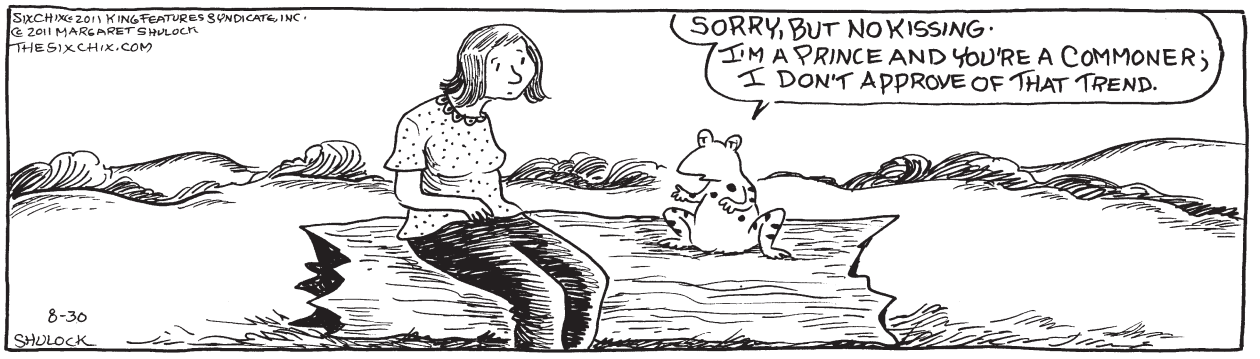
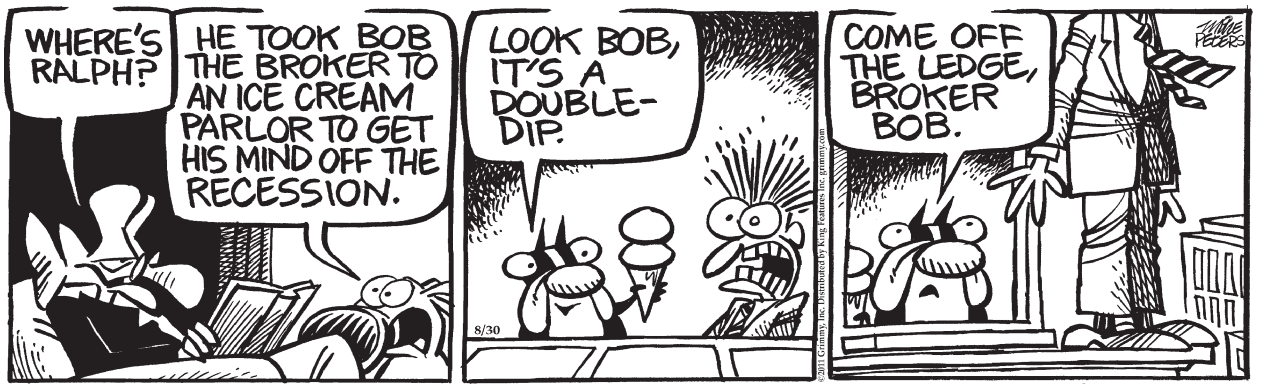
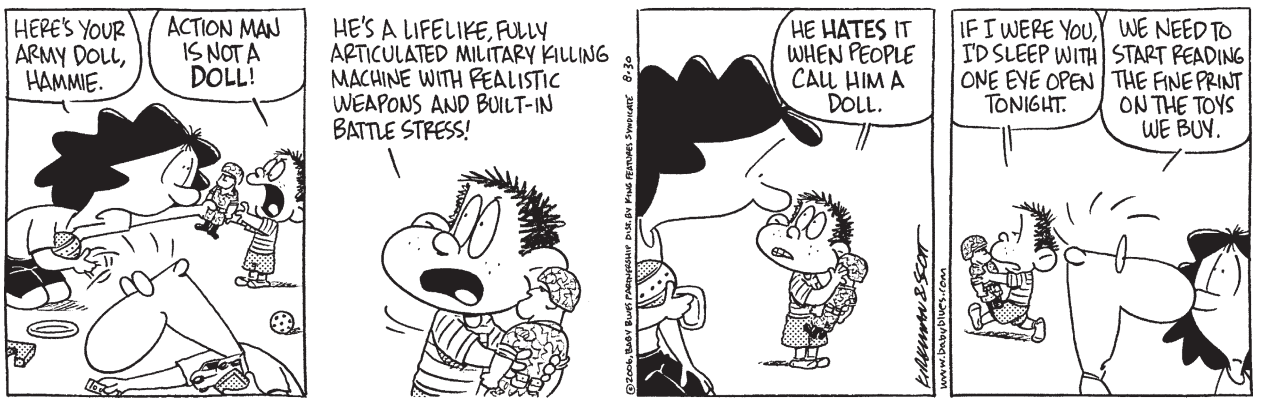


Blondie

Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits

Conceptis Sudoku

			4	6			1	
5		7	1			2		
	2				9		8	
		6					9	5
3								4
4	9					6		
	8		3				2	
		9			7	3		1
	5			2	6			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/30

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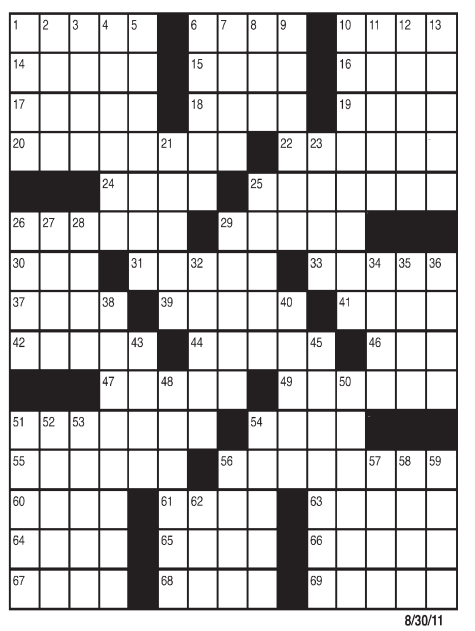
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	8	9	3	5	2	1	7	6
3	7	6	9	4	1	8	2	5
1	5	2	7	8	6	4	3	9
7	9	1	5	6	3	2	8	4
2	6	8	4	1	9	3	5	7
5	3	4	8	2	7	6	9	1
9	2	7	1	3	4	5	6	8
8	4	3	6	9	5	7	1	2
6	1	5	2	7	8	9	4	3



8/30/11

ACROSS

1 High __; baby's kitchen seat
6 Native of Aberdeen
10 __-bodied; fit
14 Row of shrubs
15 Bananas
16 Sketch
17 Actor Jeremy
18 Gal., qt. & pt.
19 Voice amplifier
20 Certain
22 Black eye
24 Small flaps
25 Wobbles
26 Valuable holdings
29 Surround and assail
30 Sorority letter
31 Spine-chilling
33 Good buys
37 Ending musical passage
39 __ Korea; neighbor of China
41 Faucet problem
42 Personnel
44 Each __; one another
46 Actress Lupino
47 Sudden burst of light
49 Home for William & Kate
51 Opposite of freshest
54 Alpha's follower
55 Quarrels
56 Giving alms
60 Weathercock
61 Creative notion
63 Part of the leg
64 Genesis home
65 Scorch
66 Kick out
67 Take a nap
68 Bills with Hamilton's face
69 Office furniture

DOWN

1 __ in; contribute
2 Main character in a story
3 Hubbubs
4 Set on fire
5 Say again
6 Poles and Czechs
7 Arrive
8 Sept.'s follower
9 Throws
10 Fessed up
11 Seawater
12 Los Angeles hoopster
13 Water jugs
21 Playwright Henrik __
23 Pay attention to
25 Molars, e.g.
26 Rainbows
27 Injection
28 Fountain order
29 Give __; have a baby
32 Perch
34 Parched
35 Venetian beach
36 Reach across
38 Wealthy
40 __ of Troy
43 Run away
45 Turned
48 Lend a hand
50 Original inhabitant
51 Pack rat
52 Exchange
53 Actress __ Moorehead
54 Wild hogs
56 College official
57 Long-legged bird with a curved bill
58 In the __ of time; almost too late
59 Prison guns
62 Cee's follower

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	V	O	W		A	R	B	O	R		S	H	O	W
L	A	N	A		N	E	E	D	Y		P	O	N	E
P	I	T	Y		I	N	D	I	A		I	P	O	D
S	L	O	W	E	S	T		O	N	E	N	E	S	S
			A	W	E		S	U	S	A	N			
A	W	A	R	E		B	U	S		S	E	A	L	S
B	A	L	D		H	A	S		D	E	R	M	A	L
O	D	D		M	A	T	T	E	R	S		O	D	E
V	E	E	R	E	D		A	N	Y		R	U	E	D
E	R	R	E	D		B	I	D		E	A	R	N	S
			C	A	P	O	N		V	A	T			
W	H	E	E	L	E	D		D	I	R	T	I	E	R
H	O	L	D		R	I	D	E	R		R	A	V	E
A	B	L	E		I	C	I	N	G		A	G	E	D
M	O	S	S		L	E	N	T	O		P	O	N	D

8/30/11

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Janet Jackson won't attend

U.S. singer Janet Jackson of American Foundation for AIDS Research, amfAR, speaks at a news conference for the Austrian Life Ball, the annual AIDS charity gala in Vienna, Austria. Jackson said in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday, Aug. 29, that she would not attend a planned tribute concert in Wales because it coincides with the trial of a doctor charged in her brother's death.
(AP Photo/Ronald Zak, file)

M.J.'s tribute
ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Janet Jackson said Monday she won't attend a planned tribute concert for her older brother Michael in Wales because the show coincides with the trial of a doctor charged in the King of Pop's death.

The singer's one-sentence statement to The Associated Press does not criticize the show, as her brothers Jermaine and Randy have done, but cites the court case as her reason for not attending. Because of the trial, the timing of this tribute to our brother would be too difficult for me," her statement reads. Her statement was released on what would have been her brother's 53rd birthday.

Organizers of "Michael Forever — The Tribute Concert" have struggled to line up top-name acts and have been criticized by fans and the late singer's estate for multiple reasons, including its costly tickets, timing and remote location. The show is scheduled for Oct. 8 in Cardiff, Wales, and the singer's mother, Katherine, and some of her children are scheduled to attend.❑

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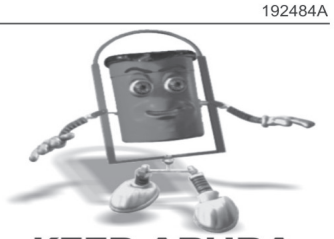

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$3,000, Rent $600
WK 47, 1BR
Sale $3,500, Rent $600
PARADISE BEACH VILLAS
WK 1, $12,995 2BR Pool
WK 2, $12,995 2BR Pool
WK 4, $12,995 2BR Pool

Wk 8 $9,000 1BR Garden*

Wk 8 $12,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 9 $8,500 1BR Garden*

Wk 9 $12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, $6,500 1BR Garden

Wk 14, $13,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 24 $1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden

Wk 20, $4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 $1,920 1BR (Even Yr.)
Wk 32 $7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 $6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 $4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 $11,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 46 $10,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 47 $10,000 2BR Pool*
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Fire Dept.	115
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Police	582-4000

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Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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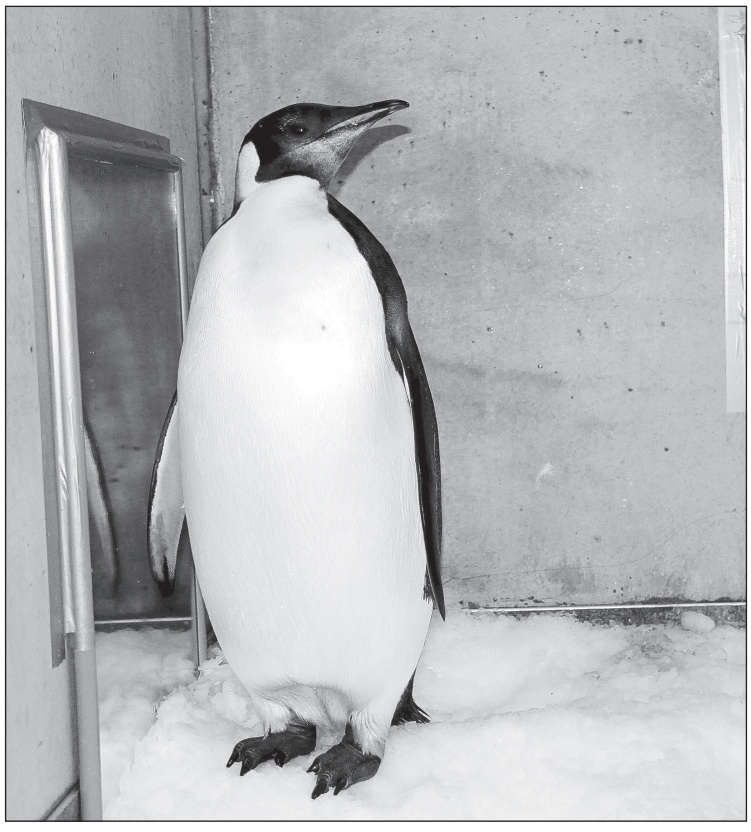
Aruba TODAY

New Zealand's penguin visitor starts journey home



In this Aug. 28, 2011 photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, emperor penguin "Happy Feet" is seen in his room at Wellington Zoo's hospital, New Zealand. The emperor penguin has been booked onto a research vessel scheduled to leave the country Aug. 29.

(Associated Press)

NICK PERRY
Associated Press
WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The wayward emperor penguin dubbed Happy Feet craned his head, flapped his flippers and seemed a little perturbed as he started his journey home to cooler southern waters Monday.

The penguin was moved from the Wellington Zoo, where staff has cared for him for the past two months to the research ship Tangaroa, which will release him after four days at sea at a latitude of 51 degrees south.

Happy Feet has been placed in a custom-made crate for the journey and will be kept cool with 60 buckets of ice. He'll be fed fish.

The Tangaroa is New Zealand's largest research vessel and was already scheduled to head into frigid southern waters to check on fish numbers in order to set fishing quotas.

The 3-foot-tall penguin was found on a New Zealand beach June 20, far from his Antarctic feeding grounds. He was moved to the zoo after he became ill from eating sand that he likely mistook for snow. He's since regained weight and been cleared to be returned to the wild.

Lisa Argilla, a veterinarian who has helped nurse the penguin back to health, said he has a "stronger and stroppier attitude" than when he first arrived at the zoo, when his demeanor seemed flat and his feather condition was poor.

"He's definitely a survivor," she said.He's also popular. Viewers have watched him eat, sleep and waddle on a zoo webcam. And he's been fitted with a GPS tracker so people can follow his progress online after he is released. "He's brought a lot of hope and joy to people," said Karen Fifield, Wellington Zoo's chief executive. "His story has driven to the heart of what makes us human."

The boat's skipper Richard O'Driscoll said that once the Tangaroa has reached the drop-off point, he will likely cut the engines and then release the penguin from the deck into the sea using a makeshift canvas slide.More than 1,700 people went to the zoo Sunday to bid goodbye to Happy Feet, who was visible in a glassed area while getting final medical checks.

The zoo has covered the cost of his stay with about $28,000 in donations.

Argilla said she will miss Happy Feet but hopes it will be the last she sees of him. By next year, she said, he will be old enough to find a mate and breed.❑

Magna invests $439M in electric car research

TORONTO (AP) — Magna International Inc. is spending US$439 million to research and develop electric vehicletechnology in Ontario.

Economic Development Minister Sandra Pupatello and Magna said Monday that the province will contribute US$49 million to help fund 19 research and development projects over the next six years.

The projects include developing concept electric cars, parts for hybrid vehicles, metallic components, alternative energy and ways to improve fuel efficiency.

The province said the plan will create 728 jobs and also help protect about 1,300 jobs at Magna's factories in Ontario.

Earlier this month, Toyota announced that the hybrid version of its popular RAV4 sport utility vehicle would be manufactured in Woodstock, Ontario.

Magna shares were up CA$1.42, or nearly 4 percent, at CA$37.04 in trading Monday on the Toronto Stock Exchange.❑

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Israel lures Hollywood to film in the Holy Land

DANIEL ESTRIN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is tired of Hollywood filming Jesus' crucifixion in Italy and the Crusader invasion of the Holy Land in Morocco.

So Israeli officials are promising better tax breaks, terror attack insurance and handouts of up to $400,000 to lure international movie producers to the holy city of Jerusalem. They want to cash in on the multibillion-dollar industry, and want the real Jerusalem on the silver screen — not Mediterranean stand-ins.

"It's absurd. Movies set in Jerusalem are filmed in Malta, Morocco and Greece," said Yoram Honig, an Israeli film director and 10th-generation Jerusalemite. He heads the Jerusalem Film Fund, which was set up three years ago to encourage more moviemaking in the city.

According to conventional wisdom in Hollywood, Jerusalem is too volatile to ensure smooth filming on location.

International insurance companies have traditionally refused to provide terrorism risk coverage, or offered it at exorbitant prices. For a long time, it didn't make financial sense for the producers. While Israel in the 1980s attracted such star-studded productions as Sylvester Stallone's "Rambo 3" and Chuck Norris' "The Delta Force," it later lost out to other countries that started giving big tax incentives to producers.

"If they think it's expensive and dangerous, they won't want to come," Honig said.

That's why the Israeli government enacted a law in 2008 offering tax breaks to foreign film companies that choose to shoot in Israel. And earlier this year Israel introduced an insurance fund to provide coverage to a production in case of disruptions by acts of war or terrorism, said Zafrir Asas, manager of audio visual industries in Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor.

But the 2008 law has had little effect. Asas admits the tax incentives are far lower than what other countries provide.

Nava Levin, the Israeli representative to the Producers Guild of America, said the law actually creates obstacles to filmmakers, including a requirement that Israeli production companies purchase goods and services for the producers on their behalf. The law "is written in a way that is almost impossible to take advantage of it," Levin said.

Even Israeli producers have shied away from the city: Out of about 600 Israeli movies filmed since the country's founding, only about 30 have been filmed in Jerusalem, Honig said.

That has begun to change recently, with some of Israel's most celebrated new films shot here with the fund's financial support, including Joseph Cedar's "Footnote," which was awarded best screenplay at this year's Cannes film festival.

Now the city is sweetening the pot for international filmmakers, offering cash incentives and a municipal department that will assist with filming permits and on-location logistics. Only four international productions are shot in Jerusalem each year, most of them European, Honig said.

Part of the push to get Jerusalem into movie theaters is to present a more positive image of the city than the conflict seen in the news — "the Jerusalem that more than 3.5 billion people of faith around the world wish to see," said Stephan Miller, spokesman for Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat.

Honig said the municipal fund is close to signing a contract with a German producer to shoot a film about the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, which took place in Jerusalem in 1961. An Italian producer has also proposed filming a comedy in the city about an Italian nun who falls in love with an ultra-Orthodox Jew.

Other projects the film fund is courting include an Indian-Israeli romance, and "Jerusalem, I Love You," an installment of producer Emmanuel Benbihy's Cities of Love series. A delegation of Bollywood producers also recently visited the city to scout out filming opportunities. And a new animation studio in the city, Animation Lab, has courted Hollywood producers to work on its first feature film, "The Wild Bunch," slated for release in 2012.

Tel Aviv and Haifa, too, are developing similar film funds to attract producers to those cities.

In the meantime, most major Hollywood productions have preferred to set up their movies about Jerusalem elsewhere.

Take "World War Z," the forthcoming multimillion-dollar zombie flick starring Brad Pitt. Part of the plot takes place in Jerusalem, but producers have replicated the city on the island of Malta, which offers hefty cash rebates for foreign film productions. Israeli actors have been flown in for the filming, Levin said.

"Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" opens with Kevin Costner escaping from a prison in Jerusalem — but the movie was filmed in England and France. Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" was shot in Italy. In Steven Spielberg's "Munich," about Mossad assassinations of Palestinians who killed Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics, a Tel Aviv beach promenade scene was filmed in Malta.

Some films taking place in Jerusalem have even been filmed in Middle Eastern countries that don't have friendly relations with Israel.❑

In this photo taken on Thursday, March 29, 2007. French actress Juliette Binoche acts on the set of the film "Disengagement," by noted Israeli director Amos Gitai, in Nitzan, southern Israel. Israel wants Hollywood to stop filming Jesus' crucifixion in Italy and the Crusader invasion of the Holy Land in Morocco. So Israeli officials are promising tax breaks, terror attack insurance and cash handouts of up to $400,000 to lure international movie producers to the Holy City of Jerusalem. They want to cash in on the multibillion-dollar industry, and want the real Jerusalem on the silver screen not Mediterranean stand-ins. Movies set in Jerusalem are filmed in Malta, Morocco and Greece," said Yoram Honig, an Israeli film director and 10th-generation Jerusalemite who heads the Jerusalem Film Fund, set up three years ago to encourage more moviemaking in the city.

(AP Photo/Murad Sezer, file)

Perry wins top award, but Beyonce baby tops show

NEKESA MOODY
AP Music Writer

Beyonce and Jay-Z's offspring doesn't even have a name yet, but it was the indisputable breakout star of Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, upstaging everyone, even Katy Perry's win for video of the year.

Perry, who had the most nominations coming into the show with 10, came away with three moonman trophies, including video of the year for the inspirational clip "Firework." "I feel like I'm doing something right when I sing that song," said Perry, conservatively dressed in a cotton-candy pink jacket, a skirt and something best described as a Green Bay Packers cheesehead decoration. But the night's big news came from Beyonce, who stole the show before it even began when she announced on the black carpet that after more than three years of marriage, the dazzling couple had produced the ultimate all-star collaboration. Dressed in a loose-fitting, off-the-shoulder red gown, she clutched the baby bump that so many celeb-watchers had been predicting since the two wed. Later, Beyonce performed "Love on Top," and if Twitter hadn't already spread the news, her outfit gave clues to her impending motherhood; instead of her typical sexy outfits, she dressed in conservative spangled tux — but still danced around in her signature stilettos.

Beyonce didn't utter a word about the pregnancy, but ended the number by taking off her jacket and rubbing her swollen belly; in the audience, an elated Jay-Z hooted and clapped for his wife as Kanye West hugged him. In an instant, Beyonce and her soon-to-be child managed to overshadow the night's events.

Lady Gaga's much-hyped opening number, during which she performed as a greasy, leather-jacketed male alter-ego during a performance of "You and I," became less interesting. So did the evening's meticulously planned wild moments, from Nicki Minaj's origami-like outfit to a dance-off between the members of Odd Future and Jack Black, Will Ferrell and Seth Rogen.

There was one apparently unscripted moment during Jay-Z's performance with Kanye West of "Otis," off their chart-topping joint album "Watch the Throne." Near the end of the song, someone tried to walk on the stage, but was quickly apprehended by a crew member as a bemused Jay-Z looked on. It was the second time Jay-Z had someone walk on unannounced during an MTV performance; two years ago, it was Lil Mama.

Britney Spears captured the night's first award, for best pop video, and later was honored with an MTV Video Vanguard award for her visual legacy. Lady Gaga, sticking to her gender-switch shtick, leered at Spears as she paid tribute to her. "She's a pop music legend, and the industry would not be the same without her," Gaga said. "I used to hang pictures of her on my wall and touch myself when I was in bed."

Later, Gaga fished for a kiss, but as Spears leaned in, she quickly pulled back, reminding viewers, "I've done that before."

The show at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles had no official host, though comedian Kevin Hart delivered an opening monologue and was featured in a series of vignettes during the show. Adele had perhaps the highlight of the night as the seven-time nominee delivered a powerfully understated performance of "Someone Like You," off her top-selling "21" album.❑

Beyonce performs at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday Aug. 28, 2011, in Los Angeles.
(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

Filmmakers' first opus is a movie starring everyone

BROOKS BARNES
© 2011 New York Times

SANTA MONICA, Calif. – From a basement here, a cramped one with exposed pipes wrapped in blue Christmas lights, two friends – one a pony-tailed California dude and the other a buttoned-down business type – are trying to change the world.

Or at least document every corner of it with video cameras. Kyle Ruddick, 32, surfer, and Brandon Litman, 30, serial entrepreneur, are the forces behind "One Day on Earth," an effort to use the Internet to amass footage from across the globe and turn it into a free online archive and feature-length film. Another component involves building and maintaining what they call "a global online community."

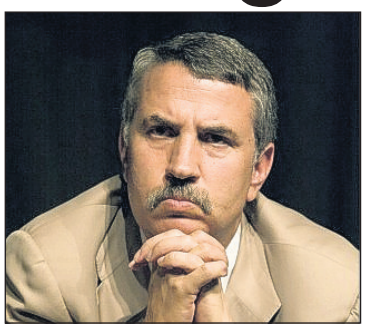
So far they have the footage, captured by volunteers during the 24-hours of Oct. 10, 2010, and the archive is up and running. A trailer for the film is finished. That related social network has more than 17,000 members. The future film itself? Plans for distribution will be announced this fall, they hope. Attempting to pull off a project this ambitious would be daunting for the most veteran of documentarians; these are two guys who have never made a movie before. But they have faced an even greater hurdle: a rival team of filmmakers – led by Ridley Scott ("Blade Runner," "Alien," and "Gladiator," to name a few) and backed by the gorilla of Web video, YouTube – popped up after Ruddick and Litman had gotten started but beat them with a finished film.

Scott's "Life in a Day," a film made in a virtually identical crowd-sourced manner, was released on July 29 by National Geographic Entertainment. Over two dozen researchers worked on "Life in a Day," which got a splashy premiere at last year's Sundance Film Festival and benefitted from publicity generated by 42West, one of Hollywood's top public relations firms.

But the competing venture only renewed Ruddick and Litman's vigor, and in the end it may be "One Day on Earth" instead of the deep-pocketed "Life in a Day" that has more of an long-term impact. Ruddick and Litman, partly to differentiate their project from the one supported by YouTube, forged partnerships with more than 60 charities and humanitarian organizations. These allies include the U.N. Development Program, Human Rights Watch, World Wildlife Fund and Oxfam International. The U.N. agency, pleased with how the archive of video submissions turned out, recently committed to make updating the "One Day on Earth" archive an annual event through 2015; this year, participants will be asked to submit video captured on Nov. 11 (for 11-11-11). ❑

An undated handout image from the film "One Day On Earth," by Kyle Ruddick and Brandon Litman. Two fledgling filmmakers have involved more than 7,000 people in documenting one day all over the world.
(Kriya Sraj/"One Day On Earth")

All together now



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2011 New York Times

Hold onto your hats and your wallets. Since the end of the Cold War, the global system has been held together to a large degree by four critical ruling bargains. Today all four are coming unstuck at once and will need to be rebuilt. Whether and how that rebuilding happens – beginning in the U.S. – will determine a lot about what's in your wallet and whether your hat flies off. ow let me say that in English: the European Union is cracking up. The Arab world is cracking up. China's growth model is under pressure and America's credit-driven capitalist model has suffered a warning heart attack and needs a total rethink. Recasting any one of these alone would be huge. Doing all four at once – when the world has never been more interconnected – is mind-boggling. We are again "present at the creation" – but of what?

Let's start with the Middle East, the world's oil tap. Libyans just joined Tunisians, Egyptians and Yemenis in ousting their dictator, while Syrians and Iranians hope to soon follow suit. In time, virtually every Middle East autocrat will be deposed or forced to share power. The old model can't hold. That model was based on kings and military dictators capturing the oil revenue, ensconcing themselves in power – protected by well-financed armies and security services – and buying off key segments of their populations. That lid has been blown off by an Arab youth bulge that today can see just how everyone else is living and is no longer ready to accept being behind, undereducated, unemployed, humiliated and powerless. But while this old Middle East system – based on an iron fist and a fistful of petro-dollars holding together multiethnic/multireligious societies – has broken down, it will take time for these societies to write their own social contracts for how to live together without an iron fist from above. Hope for the best, prepare for anything.

Farther north, it was a nice idea, this European Union and eurozone: Let's have a monetary union and a common currency but let everyone run their own fiscal policy, as long as they swear to work and save like Germans. Alas, it was too good to be true. Large government welfare programs in some European countries, without the revenue to finance them from local production, eventually led to a piling up of sovereign debt – mostly owed to European banks – and then a lender revolt. The producer-savers in northern Europe are now drawing up a new deal with the overspenders – the PIIGS: Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain. It is unlikely that the Germans would just break out of the European Union, since a good chunk of their exports go to those overspending, uncompetitive countries. Instead, the northern Europeans are trying to force stronger, rule-based discipline on the PIIGS. But how much more austerity can these countries absorb, especially if there are further social stresses from deeper recessions? More than Londoners will take to the streets. One way or another, the European Union is going to get smaller or tighter, but in the process it could go through a chaotic, world-shaking transition that is not priced into the market yet. Going East, China has been relying on a model built on a deliberately undervalued currency and export-led growth, with low domestic consumption and high savings. This has allowed the Communist Party to sustain a unique bargain with its people: We give you jobs and rising standards of living, and you give us power. This bargain is now under threat. Persistent unemployment in China's U.S. and European markets is making Beijing's undervalued-currency/low-consumption/high-export model less sustainable for the world. China also has to get rich before it gets old. It has to move from two parents saving for one kid, to one kid paying for the retirement of two parents. To do that, it has to move from an assembly-copying-manufacturing economy to a knowledge-services-innovation economy. This requires more freedom and rule of law, and you can already see mounting demands for it. Something has to give there.

As for America, we've thrived in recent decades with a credit-consumption-led economy, whereby we maintained a middle class by using more steroids (easy credit, subprime mortgages and construction work) and less muscle-building (education, skill-building and innovation). It's put us in a deep hole, and the only way to dig out now is a new, hybrid politics that mixes spending cuts, tax increases, tax reform and investments in infrastructure, education, research and production. But that mix is not the agenda of either party. Either our two parties find a way to collaborate in the center around this new hybrid politics, or a third party is going to emerge – or we're stuck and the pain will just get worse. When the world is experiencing so many wrenching changes at once – with already high unemployment and weak economies – the need for America, the most important pillar of all, to be rock solid is greater than ever. If we don't get our act together – which will require collective action normally reserved for wartime – we are not going to just be prolonging an American crisis, but feeding a global one. ❑

CartoonArts International: www.nytsyn.com/cartoons

Republicans against science?

PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2011 New York Times

Jon Huntsman Jr., a former Utah governor and ambassador to China, isn't a serious contender for the Republican presidential nomination. And that's too bad, because Hunstman has been willing to say the unsayable about the GOP – namely, that it is becoming the "anti-science party." This is an enormously important development. And it should terrify us. To see what Huntsman means, consider recent statements by the two men who actually are serious contenders for the GOP nomination: Rick Perry and Mitt Romney.

Perry, the governor of Texas, recently made headlines by dismissing evolution as "just a theory," one that has "got some gaps in it" – an observation that will come as news to the vast majority of biologists. But what really got peoples' attention was what he said about climate change: "I think there are a substantial number of scientists who have manipulated data so that they will have dollars rolling into their projects. And I think we are seeing almost weekly, or even daily, scientists are coming forward and questioning the original idea that man-made global warming is what is causing the climate to change." That's a remarkable statement – or maybe the right adjective is "vile." The second part of Perry's statement is, as it happens, just false: The scientific consensus about man-made global warming – which includes 97 to 98 percent of researchers in the field, according to the National Academy of Sciences – is getting stronger, not weaker, as the evidence for climate change just keeps mounting. In fact, if you follow climate science at all you know that the main development over the past few years has been growing concern that projections of future climate are underestimating the likely amount of warming. Warnings that we may face civilization-threatening temperature change by the end of the century, once considered outlandish, are now coming out of mainstream research groups. But never mind that, Perry suggests; those scientists are just in it for the money, "manipulating data" to create a fake threat. In his book "Fed Up," he dismissed climate science as a "contrived phony mess that is falling apart." could point out that Perry is buying into a truly crazy conspiracy theory, which asserts that thousands of scientists all around the world are on the take, with not one willing to break the code of silence.

I could also point out that multiple investigations into charges of intellectual malpractice on the part of climate scientists have ended up exonerating the accused researchers of all accusations. But never mind: Perry and those who think like him know what they want to believe, and their response to anyone who contradicts them is to start a witch hunt. So how has Romney, the other leading contender for the GOP nomination, responded to Perry's challenge? In trademark fashion: By running away. In the past, Romney, a former governor of Massachusetts, has strongly endorsed the notion that man-made climate change is a real concern.

But, last week, he softened that to a statement that he thinks the world is getting hotter, but "I don't know that" and "I don't know if it's mostly caused by humans." Moral courage! Of course, we know what's motivating Romney's sudden lack of conviction. According to Public Policy Polling, only 21 percent of Republican voters in Iowa believe in global warming (and only 35 percent believe in evolution). Within the GOP, willful ignorance has become a litmus test for candidates, one that Romney is determined to pass at all costs.

So it's now highly likely that the presidential candidate of one of our two major political parties will either be a man who believes what he wants to believe, even in the teeth of scientific evidence, or a man who pretends to believe whatever he thinks the party's base wants him to believe. And the deepening anti-intellectualism of the political right, both within and beyond the GOP, extends far beyond the issue of climate change. Lately, for example, The Wall Street Journal's editorial page has gone beyond its long-term preference for the economic ideas of "charlatans and cranks" – as one of former President George W. Bush's chief economic advisers famously put it – to a general denigration of hard thinking about matters economic. Pay no attention to "fancy theories" that conflict with "common sense,"

The Journal tells us. Because why should anyone imagine that you need more than gut feelings to analyze things like financial crises and recessions?

Now, we don't know who will win next year's presidential election. But the odds are that one of these years the world's greatest nation will find itself ruled by a party that is aggressively anti-science, indeed anti-knowledge. And, in a time of severe challenges – environmental, economic, and more – that's a terrifying prospect.❑

Aruba TODAY

A writer deals with success as not the end of the world

GREGORY COWLES
© 2011 New York Times

BELMONT, Mass. – The Rapture came at a good time for Tom Perrotta.

In May, when the Christian radio host Harold Camping and his followers were preparing for the end of the world (now rescheduled), Perrotta was finishing up his new novel, "The Leftovers."

Tom Perrotta, the author of "The Leftovers." (Erik Jacobs/The New York Times)

Its subject? A "Rapturelike phenomenon" in which millions of people vanish one day, leaving their friends and families unsure how to respond.

It's hardly typical fare for Perrotta, a chronicler of suburban dysfunction best known for his 2004 novel, "Little Children," about a young mother's infidelity and her neighborhood's campaign against a pedophile. That book, his fifth, was turned into a film starring Kate Winslet, and Perrotta received an Oscar nomination for the screenplay he wrote with the director Todd Field. (The film version of his novel "Election" also received a best screenplay nomination, but Perrotta wasn't involved.)

Yet if the supernatural subject of "The Leftovers" is a departure for Perrotta, his treatment of it is not. The novel, which comes out Tuesday and which Perrotta is adapting for an HBO series, concentrates on a suburban family and its struggles to cope after the Rapture leaves them untouched. It also advances the more complicated worldview that has characterized Perrotta's work since "Little Children."

"I used to describe myself as a comic novelist," he said recently, "but my concerns seem to have darkened over the past few years. I no longer believe that just about everything is funny, if viewed from the proper angle."

Though filled with the comic observations and straightforward language his readers now expect, "The Leftovers" also has what Perrotta calls "a kind of existential quality about it."

He explained: "People are forced to ask, what does this mean? And if it's meaningless and random and unknowable, then how are we supposed to live?"

On the cover of The New York Times Book Review this week, Stephen King praised the novel as "a troubling disquisition on how ordinary people react to extraordinary and inexplicable events, the power of family to hurt and to heal, and the unobtrusive ease with which faith can slide into fanaticism." In her review Michiko Kakutani, the Times' chief book critic, noted a disconnect between the novel's "splashy, Hollywoodlike premise" and the author's "talent for smaller-scale portraits."

For Perrotta, a cheerful, compact 50-year-old with no strong religious beliefs, the Rapture is less important from a theological perspective than from a novelistic one. He started thinking hard about the subject while researching evangelical culture for his 2007 novel, "The Abstinence Teacher," about a divorced sex-ed instructor who becomes entangled with an evangelical group.

"I kept bumping up against the Rapture scenario," he said this month at home in this Boston suburb, where he lives with his wife, Mary, and their teenage daughter and son. "And I got in that 'What if?' mode. What if this happened, what would it be like three or four years in? I immediately thought, you know what, we probably would have forgotten about the Rapture. Because three or four years is an eternity in this culture."

Perrotta's quiet Massachusetts neighborhood is not unlike the quiet New Jersey neighborhoods in his books. Trees line the sidewalks, and girls in Belmont Marauders sweatshirts push bikes uphill past well-groomed lawns. On its website, Belmont calls itself "the Town of Homes," the kind of quirky, humble detail that seems intended to appeal to a novelist of Perrotta's sensibilities – as does the fact that the journalist Sebastian Junger (who grew up in Belmont) once wrote a book suggesting that the Boston Strangler had struck here in the 1960s.

Tom Perrotta, the author of "The Leftovers," in Belmont, Mass. The novel comes out today. (Erik Jacobs/The New York Times).

After living for years here in a two-family house with no yard, Perrotta and his family moved four years ago – after the "Little Children" movie, with its Hollywood paycheck – into a spacious colonial-style home surrounded by perennial gardens. Perrotta works in a small third-floor study that overlooks the rolling back lawn. A photo of his Little League team is framed on one wall, with a young Perrotta kneeling in the front row and his father behind him.

That photo was taken in Garwood, N.J., where Perrotta grew up in a working-class family, his mother a secretary, and his father, who died a decade ago, a mail carrier. Although a job teaching expository writing at Harvard brought Perrotta to Massachusetts in 1994, he remains a Jersey boy at heart, sprinkling his conversation with references to Bruce Springsteen and family vacations at the shore. By the time Perrotta was in high school, he said, he had already dreamed of becoming a writer. "I really wanted to be a musician," he said, laughing, "but it turned out I had no sense of time."

After graduating from Yale with a degree in English, Perrotta studied writing at Syracuse University, where he met his future wife (a journalism student) and formed a lasting friendship with his teacher Tobias Wolff. "I still remember Tom's application story," Wolff said in a recent email, "and considering the many, many thousands of these I have read through the years, that's saying something."

Wolff recalled that he and Perrotta used to exchange books, host movie nights and play softball together, and he quoted a line he's never forgotten from Perrotta's first book, the 1994 collection "Bad Haircut."

"The narrator of a story sees his parents huddled together on the couch in front of the TV 'like some two-headed monster of unhappiness,''` Wolff said. ``I have never since sat down to watch, say, `The West Wing' or 'The Wire' with my wife without worrying about how we look to our kids."

The novelist Kate Walbert, who has known Perrotta since they both taught at Yale in the early 1990s, said that even as he was collecting rejection slips for an early novel that remains unpublished, his future was never in doubt.

"A whole group of us used to hang out in the Anchor bar in New Haven after teaching and talk shop, and Tom would tell these great stories, and you just knew that he was going to be a big success," she remembered. "When I called to congratulate him after 'Little Children' received a rave front-page review in The New York Times Book Review, his response was typical Tom: 'Well, I guess there's nowhere to go but down.'"

Perrotta was raised Roman Catholic, but considers himself an agnostic. Still, with religious themes central to his last two novels, he acknowledged the topic has been on his mind since his father's death.

"I've been a little bit obsessed with religion, without being a religious person, for about a decade," he said.❑